

Hafa Adai!

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'Releasing confidential info has harmful effect'

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Shen Yan, president for the global capital market for Imperial Pacific International LLC in Hong Kong, testified yesterday about how the release of confidential financial information has negatively affected its investors.

During a video conference with Yan yesterday at the District Court for the NMI, he testified in his capacity as president about the struggles IPI and its subsidiaries face due to the leak of the Ernst & Young audited consolidated financial statements.

At the hearing for preliminary injunction in the district court, Yan explained that his job is to raise funds

See INFO on Page 4

New 'resort fee' eyed

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

Another tax is being eyed for imposition on the CNMI's tourists. This time, they are calling it a "tourism resort fee."

The House of Representatives, through one of their committees, is already starting to review the new resort tax that aims to secure more money for six government agencies.

Rep. Janet Maratita's (R-Saipan) House Bill 21-67 seeks to impose a 5% "tourism resort fee" on occupants of rooms in a hotel, lodging house, motel, resort motel, apartment motel, rooming house, bed and breakfast, condominium, or similar facilities in the CNMI.

The 5% fee would be taken from the amount paid for accommodations

See RESORT on Page 4



NO-DRIVE ZONE

Visible tire marks are seen on the shores of Lao Lao Bay Beach. Driving on shores is not encouraged in the CNMI and other parts of the world because it causes erosion, changes the landscape of the shoreline, and disrupts animals that inhabit the area.

BEA CABRERA

Litter violator fined \$625

Two persons recently caught violating the anti-littering law were cited and fined, amounting to \$75 and \$625, respectively.

During routine surveillance on June 13 at the former staging area in

As Gonno for green waste after Super Typhoon Yutu, inspectors of the Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality's Division of Environmental Quality discovered an illegal dump that included household trash, broken

electronic waste, old paints, used oil, and old lumber.

Two potential violators were found. As a result of its investigation, DEQ issued a citation separately with fines to the individuals amounting to \$75 and \$625, respectively.

The site where the waste was found was near a drinking water well.

Had any of the hazardous chemicals spilled on the ground, the groundwater that feeds that drinking water well could have been contaminated. To avoid any potential contamination to the nearby well, DEQ removed the oil and paints for proper disposal.

One of the violations was found

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INSIDE



BUSINESS

Ashley Reiko Pangelinan actually started Pualani Crown in Tokyo in December 2016.

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NATION

Gilroy, a community near San Francisco, is the site of the latest American mass shooting.

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LIFE & STYLE

A jury has found that Katy Perry's "Dark Horse" improperly copied a 2009 Christian rap song.

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Local

Woman awaiting sentencing tests positive for 'ice' use

A woman who is awaiting sentencing for conspiring with others to possess a chemical that would be used to make the illegal drug crystal meth has tested positive for using "ice."

Joanne Marie Deleon Guerrero Castro was summoned to appear yesterday afternoon for a hearing before the U.S. District Court for the NMI to determine whether or not her release should be revoked or modified.

According to U.S. Probation officer Gregory F. Arriola, Castro first denied then later admitted that she used "ice" when confronted with the laboratory test results.

Arriola said the defendant tested presumptive positive for methamphetamine during a drug test at the U.S. Probation Office last July 11. When

confronted with the test results, Castro denied using any illicit substances, Arriola said, adding that the laboratory test results report later showed a positive result for methamphetamine.

Last July 22, Castro reported to the U.S. Probation Office for a noncompliance meeting and was confronted with the laboratory report.

Initially, Arriola said, the defendant was not forthcoming about the circumstances regarding her illicit drug use. He said Castro later admitted that a friend stopped by her apartment and began smoking "ice" in front of her. Castro allegedly stated she was tempted and eventually smoked "ice."

Arriola said the defendant further admitted that she became fearful of getting in trou-

ble and attempted to dilute her urine before being subjected to the July 11 drug test.

Arriola said Castro also voluntarily admitted that she had consumed a medicine last July 3 because she was experiencing back pain.

The probation officer said the defendant stated she was unaware that she needed a prescription for that medicine until he made note of it in a previous conversation.

Except for the positive drug test, Castro is generally compliant with conditions of her release, Arriola said. He said the defendant remains in substance abuse treatment and testing, and submits her pre-trial supervision reports in a timely manner.

Last April 25, an indictment

was filed against Castro.

At the April 26 hearing, Castro was released with conditions to include that she be supervised by the U.S. Probation Office and Pretrial Services Office and be placed on home detention with no electronic monitoring.

Among the conditions is that the defendant must not use or possess a narcotic drug or other controlled substances. She must also submit to drug testing if required by the Pretrial Services Office or supervising officer.

At a change of plea hearing last June 20, Castro pleaded guilty to an indictment charging her with one count of conspiracy to possess pseudoephedrine, a listed chemical, knowing that it would be used to make methamphetamine through the so-called shake-and-bake method.

The offense carries a maximum penalty of not more than 20 years imprisonment and a fine not to exceed \$1 million.

The sentencing guideline range is between 97 to 121 months of imprisonment.

Castro's sentencing is currently set for Nov. 15, 2019. Robert Torres is her court-appointed counsel.

According to the factual admissions of Castro, between Aug. 12, 2017 and Jan. 25, 2018, she, along with others, agreed to possess pseudoephedrine, a listed chemical, knowing it would be used to make methamphetamine or "ice."

Castro said, in those periods, she purchased pseudoephedrine 14 times from pharmacies on Saipan for a total of 36,600 milligrams. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

CHCC, CUC 'working' on CHCC's multi-million debt

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. is grateful to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for "working" with CHCC on its multi-million debt in utilities billing.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry about CHCC's debt to CUC, CHCC spokesperson Zoe Travis said they are thankful to CUC for allowing them to continue to provide medical services to the community during a time that is financially difficult for all.

Travis did not provide details of CHCC's debt to CUC and what CHCC is doing to

pay its outstanding bills.

"We feel this is something that has been discussed at length and do not have any updates to provide," she said.

Last May, acting CUC board chair Weston Deleon Guerrero said CUC should take court action against CHCC and have the court decide about CHCC's failure to pay its utilities debt, now at over \$27 million.

Deleon Guerrero brought up the idea for the court to intervene for CUC to collect the money when CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho discussed during a board meeting CHCC's failure to pay \$400,000 in monthly bills or

over \$27 million.

Deleon Guerrero pointed out that CHCC's rates make sure that they pay their doctors and pay all the salaries of their staff. In that rate, Deleon Guerrero noted, CHCC is stating that they put in a utility rate as part of their overall rate.

Last April, Camacho said that, according to CHCC, the \$71,000 is all that they can afford to pay at this time because of other obligations that they must meet.

Last March, CUC reported that CHCC owes the utilities agency \$27,412,615, with its past due at four years. Last April, the debt reached \$27.7 million.

A third of Guam reefs killed by rising ocean temperatures

MANGILAO, Guam (AP)—Researchers have found that a third of Guam's coral reefs died due to rising ocean temperatures.

The *Pacific Daily News* reported Monday that University of Guam researchers say increased temperatures killed 34% of Guam's coral reefs between 2013 and 2017.

The scientists say about 60% of the reefs along Guam's eastern coast are gone.

Researchers say they have never before seen reef deaths as "severe" as the new findings.

The study was published in the scientific journal *Coral Reefs*.

A multi-agency Guam Coral Reef Response team monitors the island's reefs and tries to revive coral communities in line with a 2017 recovery plan.

Researchers say elevated global carbon dioxide output is to blame for the heightened water temperatures.

Local contributing factors include the island's pollution, sewage system and plastic waste.

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'Electrical issues' shut down HOPE Recovery Center

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Program's Hinemlu O'hala Para Enteramenti Recovery Center—or the HOPE Recovery Center—was closed last Saturday due to electrical issues and its participants and staff were sent home.

In a phone interview with Yvette Sablan, special assistant for Substance Abuse and

Rehabilitation, she confirmed that the center had to close down but it was because of fluctuating power outages as a result of electrical issues within the building.

Participants of SAAR and staff have since been informed to return since the program was temporarily moved to the Kagman Emergency Shelter Facility yesterday.

Sablan shot down rumors that the center was closed

down because of funding, reiterating that it was because of the power outages. Sablan added that the problem is currently being dealt with and repairs are underway.

According to an Office of the Governor statement, the SAAR Program has been in communication with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Office of the Governor to resolve the electrical system as soon as possible.

not closed and that outpatient services will not be disrupted.

"Our group home and clinical staff have been in communication with the participants and are fully aware that there is no disruption with treatment. While CUC and other partners are addressing the utility issues at the site, our outpatient services are still ongoing and will be provided at the Kagman Emergency Shelter Facility right by Santa

Soledad Church," Sablan said.

"We have ensured the continuity of treatment to our participants and emphasize our commitment to helping our most vulnerable residents. ... We continue our outreach efforts to reduce the stigma regarding treatment and remind

our community that help is available," she added.

The SAAR Program under the HOPE Recovery Center at the Kagman facility is open from 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. For more information, contact 323-7277.

Judge: Provide report on \$750K for 2 projects

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Judge David O. Carter directed the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the CNMI government yesterday to give a status update on the \$750,000 that CUC is required to pay for two projects.

Carter, a designated judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI, directed CUC and the CNMI government to file the status report on or before Aug. 8, about operations and maintenance fund and the pipeline project fund.

That includes the status of the \$475,000 payment that CUC is required to place by today, July 31, in a separate account to fund oil infrastructure operations and maintenance.

CUC has agreed with the U.S. government's recommendation that CUC establish operations and maintenance programs, or O&M, to better ensure that the millions of funds CUC receives from the federal and CNMI governments for projects are spent properly in the future.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and CUC have agreed that CUC shall establish a fund and maintain a separate account to ensure the effective long-term operation and maintenance of new and existing oil infrastructure.

The parties have agreed that beginning today, July 31, and every year after, CUC shall fund the O&M account with the amount of \$475,000 per year for 10 years.

Carter approved the agreement last February.

As for the pipeline project, Carter said CUC shall inform the court of the status of the \$275,000 that CUC was required to place in a separate CUC account to fund a future in-line or "smart pig" inspection and third-party analysis of the CUC pipeline.

Last Feb. 1, Carter granted a joint request by the U.S. government and CUC to reserve \$275,000 for in-line inspections of the oil pipeline.

Carter supported the parties' joint stipulation, requesting from the court that \$275,000 from CUC's Technical Manager for Oil fund be placed in a CUC account to be used for an in-line inspection of the pipeline.

In-line inspection, also

called intelligent or smart pigging, refers to an assessment of a pipeline from the interior of the pipe using an inspection tool.

The old pipeline was an aboveground pipe that delivered fuel from the Mobil Oil facility at the port on Saipan to Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base.


CUC's Environmental and Engineering Management Company then built a new fuel pipeline in the same location.

The pipeline became operational in 2016.

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OVR chief: People with disabilities are also employable

By **MARC A. VENUS**
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation urged yesterday the members of the Rotary Club of Saipan—many of whom are officials of several CNMI companies—to give employment opportunities to those with disabilities as they are also capable of meeting the needs of employers.

Speaking as a guest in yesterday's Rotary Club meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, OVR director Maryann Borja Arriola said that OVR strives to help its clients be able to work with companies that accept them, despite of any disabilities they may have.

"Business entrepreneurs, I want you all to understand that we should not make these folks feel left out, and we should make them experience how it feels like to be independent," she said.

In talking about the purpose of OVR and the importance of individuals with disabilities, or IWD's, she said that the OVR works with the competitive

and integrated employment opportunities. Competitive employment is earning wages at or above minimum wage with similar benefits provided to employees without disabili-

ties; integrated employment focuses on workers with and without disabilities.

"I have been going through numerous government and private offices and have not

seen an individual with disabilities working in them," she lamented.

She stressed that the common perception of individuals with disabilities as incapable

of meeting employers' expectations or that they will hinder the betterment of the company is misconceived.

At the same time, she said this is a form of discrimination as defined under the American Disabilities Act or ADA, and the Disability Discrimination Act or DDA.

She said that the OVR is not an entitlement but an eligibility-based program and its criteria focuses on: applicants being considered as an IWD, having a physical or mental impairment that results in hindrances to work effectively, requires OVR services to prepare for employment, and has legal status in the CNMI.

Arriola said that IT&E visited OVR not too long ago, with the interest of hiring OVR cli-

ents and she was happy to see that businesses are now seeking these individuals to join the workforce. She was grateful for the company's interest in hiring IWDs.

"I would want other businesses such as McDonald's, AK Toyota, Aqua Resort Club, Bridge Capital, government sectors, and other private entities to look into the potential of IWDs as they are capable," she said.

OVR focuses on providing IWDs the proper training in order to work with companies and perform manpower services through on-the-job partnerships or work experience training. For more information about OVR, contact them through email at nmidir@ovrgov.net or call (670) 322-6537/38.



Office of Vocational Rehabilitation director Maryann Borja Arriola, right, presents about OVR's mission, as Rotary Club of Saipan president Marcia Ayuyu, left, listens during the club's Tuesday meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday.

MARC A. VENUS

Crossing streets while using phone might help repair roads

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

Crossing the street while using "mobile electronic devices" could soon help the CNMI raise the funds it needs to repair roads. A House of Representatives committee has now approved a bill that intends to penalize pedestrians who cross streets while thumbing through their smartphones.

Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan) through House Bill 21-51 is looking to impose fines on pedestrians who are caught crossing the road while they use handheld devices or mobile electronic devices that "causes impairment."

The bill, if passed into law, will fine a person no less than \$25 and no more than \$50 for their first offense. Their second offense within one year will result in a fine of no less than \$50 and no more than \$100, while the third and succeeding offenses within the same year of the first offense will result in a fine of no less than \$100 and no more than \$150.

Seventy percent of the collected fine will be deposited in a revolving fund that is separate from the general fund, and will be used for "educational and enforcement" purposes while the remaining 25% will be used for proper signage fixtures and road, crosswalk, and lighting repair and maintenance.

The House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee recommended at their July 29, 2019, meeting to put the bill on the floor for action at the next House session.

"Just like with anything that deals with mobile cellular devices...you put your life at risk when you do that [while driving or crossing the street]. It is a form of distraction and I support any legislation...that will help save people's lives," committee chair Rep. Joel Camacho's (R-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune*.

"We don't want auto-pedestrian accidents to happen because the pedestrians are not paying attention to what is going on since they are distracted. If passed, we just hope

it is a way of deterring people...from [using their phones while crossing the street]," Rep. Luis John Castro (R-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

Camacho further clarified that this bill in no way affects the pedestrian's right of way.

"If you are caught using a mobile cellular device [while crossing], you will be penalized [but] the pedestrian right of way remains applicable," he said.

The House had just passed a similar bill but, instead of imposing penalties and fines on pedestrians using their cellular devices, it imposes penalties and fines on individuals who are caught using their cellphones while driving.

INFO

From Page 1

through investors at a sort of "grandfather level" and pass the money along to his "son," IPI CNMI, while the "son" passes it on to its "son," IPI CNMI subsidiaries like Grand Marianas and Imperial Pacific Properties.

Due to the recent leak of IPI CNMI's audited consolidated financial information on various platforms, Yan said that this would make his job harder in terms of enticing investors and raising funds because leaks like these would negatively impact investors.

That's because there's the issue with confidentiality, Yan

said, as well as interpretation that could be false and prompt questions about IPI's financial stability to arise.

In a separate interview with IPI lawyer Viola Alepuyo, she feels that the testimony was fair and effectively proved what they needed proven.

"What IPI needed to show was when confidential information is released, there's harm and we showed that harm," she said.

After hearing Yan's testimony, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona took Yan's testimony into advisement, said she'd review all the filed motions in both District and Superior Court, and ordered the Commonwealth Casino Commission

and IPI to return on Thursday 1pm to deliver their closing arguments on the preliminary injunction.

Manglona said they would also discuss IPI's motion to remand the case back to the Superior Court and whether the temporary restraining order should be expanded.

Alepuyo is unsure if the court will make a decision following the hearing on Thursday, but she said that IPI trusts the court's decision.

"Don't forget that it's not just stuff we filed here, but stuff we filed with the Superior Court that she's having to look at. She has over 700 pages when the notice of removal was filed that she has to contend with. She has

to review them in order to have a robust record to make a decision. We respect both courts and we have confidence that either court could make the decision it is what it is," she said.

Alepuyo reiterated that all IPI wants is clarity on the law.

"It's not that we disagree with what the CCC is doing. It's just that we feel like the law is vague; there's different ways to interpret it. There's a conflict between the Casino Gaming Act, the Open Government Act, and the tax laws and we just want clarity so we know how to comply with the law. It's hard for us to comply with the law if we don't really know what it means," she said.

LITTER

From Page 1

to be an intentional violation with greater than 3 lbs of solid waste illegally disposed; it was the violators' first violation. Based on the penalty matrix—the first intentional violation with greater than three pounds of solid waste—the penalty is \$250. However, because the illegal act was committed near a drinking water well—a "sensitive area"—a multiplier of 2.5 is applied to the base penalty, making the final penalty \$625.

The other citation was determined to be a first simple violation with greater than 3

lbs of solid waste.

In 2018, BECQ's DEQ, along with the Department of Public Safety, and the Office of the Attorney General, trained and certified about 85 litter control apprehending officers with 53 from Saipan, 16 each from Tinian and Rota. Pursuant to the Litter Control Act; These government agencies are designated to enforce the litter control laws and regulations: BECQ, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Public Health, Department of Public Works, Office of the Mayor, Commonwealth Zoning Office, the Department of Public Lands, and the Department of Public Safety. (*Saipan Tribune*)

RESORT

From Page 1

and is exclusive of any incidental fees, charges, or taxes.

The collected fees will go to the Marianas Visitors Authority, Commonwealth Health Care Corp., the Public School System, Northern Marianas College, the Indigenous Affairs Office, and the Carolinian Affairs Office.

Under the proposed bill, MVA would get 40% of the collected amount for cultural promotion and enhancement; 15% would go to CHCC to pay for indigent and uncompensated care costs; 10% each would go to PSS and NMC; and the remaining 25% would be divided equally between the IAO and the CAO.

"We are reaching out to stakeholders such as the Hotel Association of the NMI, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, MVA, Department of Finance, and others for their input [on the bill]," Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune*.

Blanco chairs the House Committee on Ways and

Means, which currently has the bill.

"Anyone is welcome to write or email [his or her] comments to my office," he added. "We value inputs as they help during committee deliberations."

H.B. 21-67 puts the duty of collecting the resort fees on the operator of the establishment while also requiring the collector to make a "monthly return" to the "secretary" on or before every 20th of the month.

The bill did not clarify who the "secretary" was referring to. *Saipan Tribune* attempted to reach out to Maratita to clarify since Friday last week, to no avail.

According to the bill's findings, it states that the resort fee would assist both PSS and NMC.

"...PSS and NMC are tasked to mold...minds to allow for [the youth] to become positive contributors to our society as well as enhance their own livelihood with hopes that they would one day takes the helm and guide the future of the CNMIs," it states.

NMTI hands out awards at 4th fundraising gala

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute hosted its fourth annual fundraising gala, "NMTI Fire and Ice," last Friday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom, during which NMTI also recognized its outstanding students and alumni and honored its many supporters.

All of the gala's proceeds would go to NMTI's programs.

During the gala, NMTI recognize the Hyatt Regency Saipan for their many contributions to the trade school, and many other monumental things took place, according to NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres. That includes recognizing some



Attendees of the 4th Annual Northern Marianas Trades Institute gala dance the night away last Friday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom.

of their most outstanding students and alumni, and witnessing Triple J announce a scholarship for a selected awardee.

NMTI awarded seven recognition plaques such as the Tony Pellegrino Award, which went to James Tudela; the Vi-

cente S. Sablan Award, which was awarded to Lino Santos; the Jose C. Tenorio Award, which was awarded to Dr. Vi-

cente Aldan; the Jose C. Ayuyu Award, which was awarded to Singeru Sugiyama; the Tun Donicio Torres Award, which was awarded to Henry Norman Angui; the Robert H. Jones Award, which was awarded to Ken Tanzawa; and a House of Representatives resolution plaque that was presented to Hyatt Regency general manager Nick Nishikawa.

According to McPhetres, these awards were named after people who have contributed in one way or another to the industries that NMTI represents.

"That's why we honor them and the individual who is receiving the award through them," she said.

Last year, NMTI was able

to raise \$32,000. Although the goal is not to exceed the amount, NMTI is still hopeful that it is possible.

Last Friday, Ross Manglo-na, NMTI director for Continuing Education, said that, although they would like to raise more money than last year, they are focused on recognizing their students and the private sector and their commitment to education.

"It's always nice to raise money but it's about the commitment of businesses to educations. This is the time of year where we celebrate our student achievements, and No. 2, it's to give the community a sense of ownership because NMTI belongs to them," he said.

17 certified to perform forensic interviews

By **MARC VENUS**
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REPORTER

Case workers and supervisors of the Division of Youth Service's Child Protective Services got a refresher last week on doing forensic interviews.

This time, they were given a refresher on how to properly interview child sexual abuse victims in a way that is not leading and will not unduly stress the child victims.

The group went through the seminar last week and were certified to conduct forensic interviews last Friday at their office at Chalan Piao.

The seminar was conducted by two members of the First Witness Child Advocacy Center from Duluth, Minnesota. Laura Gapske and Catie Dahl provided insights about the First Witness Child Advocacy's goal and information about the group's Zero Abuse

Project. The duo conducted assessments and case scenarios where interviewers conducted mock forensic interviews and passed written tests that see if participants understood what was taught.

The Zero Abuse Project is an organization that is committed to transforming institutions in order to effectively prevent, recognize, and respond to child sexual abuse.

A total of 17 participants

took the seminar (13 from Saipan, two from Rota, one from Tinian, and one from the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence).

Forensic interviews are structured conversations with a child intended to get information about a possible event(s) that the child may have experienced or witnessed. According to Gapske, the trainees will learn all the fundamentals to forensically interview children in a sound

and non-leading manner, and how to get a reliable statement from a child about what occurred that is about the investigation. She said that case workers must get training every two to three years.



Gapske said that it is a good idea that the CPS supervisors are participating in the event as they are informed about the case worker's information about an investigation and provide support with the case.

"We encouraged all the participants to stay in contacts

and ask questions by email and we are happy to support and educate them about this," Dahl said.

The two hopes to return to Saipan in two or three years to bring any new information about conducting effective forensic interviews.


DYS administrator Vivian Sablan said that a handful of the participants are not new to this seminar as the group underwent the same seminar in 2017, while a pair of new employees are new to the program.

Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits Workshop/Claims Clinic Saipan, CNMI

Date: July 31, 2019
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Auditorium
Who: Veterans, Family Members, Survivors, and Community Providers
Time: 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Workshop Topics: VA Compensation & Pension Benefits, Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment, Loan Guaranty, Education, and Burial and Survivor Benefits. Counselors will be available to answer questions and assist with the claim process.



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Culinary - Steward - Baker	Sports Entertainment & Activities <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; color: red; transform: rotate(-2deg); display: inline-block;">COMING SOON</div>	Finance & Admin. <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; color: red; transform: rotate(-2deg); display: inline-block;">COMING SOON</div>

*Positions are open to eligible US citizens.



For inquiries by telephone call (670)234-7976 (Monday to Friday, 8am-5pm) or email resume to hrcordinator@picsaipan.com.

Pick up an application at Pacific Islands Club Saipan, San Antonio Street (Security Office) or online at www.picresorts.com/saipan/careers.

Man accused of robbing tourist waives prelim hearing

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The man accused of robbing a tourist and her young daughter as they were walking along

Garapan has waived his right to a preliminary hearing.

Carl Steven Aldan, 23, who is charged with robbery and conspiracy to commit robbery after he and a friend allegedly

robbed a tourist and her daughter who were walking along Plumeria Avenue in Garapan, waived his right to a preliminary hearing last Monday.

Superior Court Associate

Judge Joseph Camacho ordered Aldan to return for his arraignment on Aug. 5.

A preliminary hearing is a proceeding where the defense and prosecution argue whether

or not there is probable cause to try a defendant in court.

Aldan was represented by assistant public defender Karie Comstock, while the government was represented by assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas.

According to court information, Department of Public Safety officers responded to a report of a robbery on July 14 at around 7:22pm along Plumeria Avenue in Garapan. The victim was a tourist and her young daughter, who said she was robbed by a man who ran out from a red Nissan Sentra and grabbed her purse while she and her daughter were walking along the road.



Aldan

Items stolen include a credit card, passports, an Hermes watch, and over \$1,000 in cash.

The red Nissan Sentra was later found at a home in

Gualo Rai on July 18 and police learned that the vehicle's alleged driver during the robbery was Wilson Kenneth Caintoy Celeste.

Upon interviewing Celeste, police learned that Aldan was the one who planned the robbery and needed a ride.

Aldan also confessed to the robbery after allegedly calling the police to inform them that he was at the Commonwealth Health Center where his 5-month-old daughter was checked into.

New OAG chief prosecutor hopes to strengthen ties with law enforcers

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General swore in Monday a new criminal chief prosecutor and his first goal is establish stronger relationship with the island's law enforcers.

John Bradley, the newest addition to the OAG team and the new criminal chief prosecutor, said that strengthening the OAG's bond with law enforcement will enable them to work together efficiently.

"What I really want to do is develop a good, strong relationship between the AG's Office and the law enforce-

ment so that we can all work together," he said.

Bradley, who has 25 years of prosecutorial experience, believes that his experience would enable the OAG to be consistent when processing criminal cases.

"I have a lot of experience running a large office of prosecutors and training them, working with staff,

working with investigators. I think I'm here to bring my experience as a prosecutor. I've been doing this for 25 years and helped manage the office so that we can have consistent criminal cases and good criminal prosecution in the CNMI," he said.

One type of criminal case that Bradley aims to tackle in the CNMI is handling sexual assault cases.

"I've had a lot of experience in Texas and in trainings around the world dealing with sexual assault and I'm going to bring that experience here and we're all going to work together on it and get better," he said.

Bradley and his wife arrived on Saipan over a week ago but started officially working with the OAG on July 22 and he said he is still learning.

"I've only been here a week so I'm learning more from them than I can teach them at this point," he said.

Bradley had worked with the OAG in the Republic of Palau and served there for two and a half years. Before that, Bradley was a prosecutor and an elected district attorney in Texas.

Bradley is assuming the position following former chief prosecutor Michelle Harris who was appointed consumer counsel of the Office of the Attorney General in January.



Bradley

VA chief Wilkie visits Saipan today



Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie, second from left, and Office of Insular Affairs director Nik Pula, right, pose with CNMI Office of the Governor chief of staff Angel A. Demapan, third from left, in Pohnpei during the inauguration of Federated States of Micronesia president David Panuelo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Veteran Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie is set to meet with CNMI leadership and visit veterans facilities on Saipan today, July 31, 2019.

Wilkie, along with key mem-

bers of his staff, will meet with acting governor Arnold I. Palacios, members of the CNMI Legislature, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), the CNMI Veterans Affairs Office, and the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic to discuss veterans initiatives within the CNMI and services provided for veterans on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"We're honored to have Secretary Wilkie visit Saipan and the Marianas as we continue the dialogue on the many issues and challenges facing our veterans. We look forward to strengthening our services and initiatives here at home through the support of

Secretary Wilkie and the Department of Veterans Affairs," said Palacios.

Palacios and the CNMI leadership are set to discuss issues relating to increased health care access, transportation issues for veterans on all three islands for medical care, employment and job training opportunities after service, and creating an updated and accurate registry/census of veterans in the CNMI for more efficient services.

CNMI leadership will look to have further talks on the possibility of having a dedicated VA clinic in the Commonwealth. (PR)

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP19-CHCC/CGC-SYSTEMS OF CARE-019

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 09, 2019 **TIME: 5:00 PM**

“EVALUATION SERVICES”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA **/S/ SUBROTO BANERJI**
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

XINGSHA HOTEL
PERMIT APPLICATION NO. TMS-2019-X-020

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed construction and operation of the Xingsha Hotel project.

The Tinian Hairui Real Estate Co., LLC is proposing to construct and operate the Xingsha Hotel along 8th Avenue and Kammer Beach, on Lot No. 040 T 06, in San Jose, Tinian. The proposed hotel consists of three 3-story building complex with a total of 138 unit guest rooms, 112 parking spaces, a storage area, control room, lobby and reception area, snack bar, and kitchen and dining areas with seating capacity of about 24 persons.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 6, 2019, 5PM, at the Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria.**

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Xingsha Hotel project.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP19-DCCA/CCDF-112

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 26, 2019 **TIME: 09:00 A.M.**

“TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM OF SUPPORT FOR LICENSE AND/OR LICENSE-EXEMPT CCDF FAMILY HOME BASED PROVIDERS IN MEETING CHILD CARE LICENSING AND/OR CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE CHILD CARE DEVELOPEMNT FUND OFFICE BUILDING NO. 1347, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN ON **AUGUST 12, 2019 AT 10:00 A.M.**

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO **MS. MARIBEL S.D. LOSTE, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR**, VIA EMAIL TO ccdf.maribellose2019@gmail.com OR VIA FACSIMILE TO **(670) 664-2547** **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON AUGUST 14, 2019.** ALL QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RITA CHONG **/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON**
ACTING SECRETARY, DCCA ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 *et seq.*, as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance July 31st, 2019 at 9:30 am at the SHEFA Office Conference Room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

A G E N D A

I. Preliminary Matters

1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes from June 20th, 2019

II. Public Comment

III. Reports

1. Administrator
2. Chair
3. Committee
 - a. Committee on Awards
 - b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/Forbearance
 - c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
 - d. Committee on Program and Development
 - e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs

IV. Old Business

1. Amendment to SHEFA Bylaws

V. New Business

1. Fall 2019 application status
2. Saipan Local Law 21-5

VI. Executive Session

VII. Misc.

VIII. Next Meeting

IX. Adjournment

Note: Meeting may continue the following day should the need arise.

Despite austerity measures, DCCA programs safe

Despite the government-wide austerity measures implemented in July—which includes work hour and other expenditure cuts—the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs has been able to keep all of its programs active, assured Secretary Robert Hunter.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Hunter said that DCCA has not needed to cancel any of its services or programs to date. However, the department has made significant cutbacks in vehicle use and other expenditures.

“We have some time prior to the austerity. Implementing strict controls on our utility costs and other expenditures were a priority,” Hunter said. Among the many cost-cutting measures at DCCA were reducing the amount of company cell phone use, controlling the use of electricity, and lessening the use of a number of vehicles after business hours, except for the Commonwealth Council of Arts as the group has functions that may happen after business hours such as the Thursday night street market at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Hunter said that they have a designated power marshal to assure that all electronics are powered off at the end of every business day.

“We continue to provide our regular services and activities and simply try to streamline costs as much as is possible,” he said.

Hunter said that it also has been a good thing that the measures were applied just months before the end of the current fiscal year.

DCCA has a total of 12 divisions serving the CNMI and they are Division of Youth Services, DCCA-Tinian, DCCA-Rota, CCAC, Child Care Development Fund, Nutritional Assistance Program, Child Care Licensing Program, Chamorro-Carolinian Language Policy Commission, Commonwealth Respite Service Program, Historic Preservation Office, Office on Aging, and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres reduced the operation hours of offices under the Executive Branch starting last June 23, with agencies closing every payday Friday beginning last July 5 until further notice. Autonomous agencies like CUC, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and the Commonwealth Ports Authority can choose to follow or not the Torres administration's austerity measures. *(Marc A. Venus)*

Lujan says Hillbroom a fugitive

For filing on the eve of a scheduled deposition, the federal court denied Monday Guam lawyer David J. Lujan's motion to suspend all proceedings in Junior Larry Hillbroom's lawsuit against him and another lawyer.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona noted that Lujan's motion to suspend was filed Sunday at 10:05pm, but offers no explanation as to why he waited until the eve of his deposition to file this motion or why he failed to raise this issue at the motion to compel hearing.

Manglona denied Lujan's motion and ordered him to sit for his deposition as scheduled for Monday and yesterday.

Deposition refers to taking of the testimony of a witness outside of court.

In his motion, Lujan asserts that the Palau Court issued a warrant for Hillbroom's arrest in January 2019. To support this motion, Lujan filed a screenshot of an undated article from the *Island Times*, a Palau newspaper.

Lujan asked the federal court to suspend all proceedings in this case, including discovery, pending the court's determination of the applicability of the Fugitive Disentitlement Doctrine.

Lujan said Hillbroom is a fugitive from the courts of Belau (Palau) as he has willfully defied the warrant issued in January 2019 by refusing to surrender to authorities and that he shows no intention to surrender any time soon.

Lujan said the Fugitive Disentitlement Doctrine prevents

» District Court denies Lujan's motion to suspend proceedings in Hillbroom's lawsuit as too late

Hillbroom to court proceedings via telephone. During proceedings in this case, he said, the district

court has been made aware that Hillbroom is a fugitive.

Hillbroom has sought payment of \$22,646 in total costs and attorney's fees from Lujan as sanction over the lawyer's behavior during his deposition.

Kennedy earlier ruled that sanctions against Lujan are appropriate.

Hillbroom filed a motion to compel Lujan to resume his deposition on Saipan as Lujan allegedly displayed obstructive conduct and improperly left during his deposition in Guam. Hillbroom had also asked the court to sanction Lujan.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona earlier found that

room is somewhere in the U.S. mainland and, by refusing to return to Palau to face his criminal charges, he is a fugitive.

Lujan said Hillbroom's lawyer has an ethical duty to disclose where Hillbroom is so that he may be detained and remanded to Palau. The lawyer has previously connected

Hillbroom to court proceedings via telephone. During proceedings in this case, he said, the district

court has been made aware that Hillbroom is a fugitive.

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U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona earlier found that

Lujan violated Model Rules of Professional Conduct when he talked on the phone conversation with Hillbroom and taped that conversation.

Manglona has barred Lujan from any contact with Hillbroom without the written consent of Hillbroom's lawyer.

Manglona has granted Hillbroom's request that Lujan and lawyer Barry J. Israel be made to pay their attorney's fees in the amount of \$11,750 for the costs of replying to defendants' motion to dismiss Hillbroom's lawsuit.

In 2009, Hillbroom sued Lujan and Israel for allegedly conspiring with former trustee Keith Waibel to inflate their contingency fee when the fortune of the late DHL co-founder Larry Hillblom was still undergoing proceedings in the Superior Court.

The trial is set this November.

Lujan and Israel, who were former lawyers for Hillbroom, denied the allegations.

Hillbroom is one of the four DNA-proven children of Hillblom. His name is spelled differently from that of Hillblom.

Hillblom died in a seaplane crash off Anatahan waters on May 21, 1995. Although his body was never recovered, the court declared him dead. *(Ferdie De La Torre)*



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9715 Facsimile (670)236-9702



INVITATION TO BID ITB19-JUDICIARY-03 GUMA' HUSTISIA SKYLIGHT PROJECT

The Judiciary of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("Judiciary") is soliciting sealed bids for the Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice ("Guma' Hustisia") Skylight Project. This project involves the demolition of existing skylights and its replacement with concrete caps and skylights for the Guma' Hustisia located at Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950.

A copy of the bid package may be obtained by visiting the Accounting Services Unit's Cashier Window, located next to the main entrance to the Guma' Hustisia, between **8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, Monday to Friday, excluding observed holidays, upon registration completion. The bid package also contains architectural-engineering drawings and specifications that must be retrieved online at www.justice.gov.mp. For website issues preventing access, please contact Martha Mendiola, Program and Resource Specialist, at martha.mendiola@justice.gov.mp.

Sealed bids, containing one (1) original and three (3) copies must be placed in an envelope marked "ITB19-Judiciary-03, Skylight Project," and submitted in person to the Accounting Services Unit Cashier Window, located next to the Guma' Hustisia's main entrance, Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m. on August 15, 2019 (ChSt)**.

Bid Opening. Bids will be publicly opened and read at **3:00 p.m. on August 15, 2019**, at the Judiciary's conference room located at the Guma' Hustisia.

Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference. A mandatory pre-bid conference followed by a site visit is scheduled for **10:00 a.m. on July 31, 2019** at the Judiciary's conference room located at the Guma' Hustisia.

Bid Security. A *Bid Security* of fifteen (15%) of the total bid price must accompany bids. Bid security must be in a bid bond, in cash, by certified check or cashier's check. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. *If a bid bond is submitted, it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).* (ICC may take up to 5 business days).

Bonds. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred percent (100%) and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred percent (100%) of the total bid price must be furnished by the successful bidder within five (5) business days of contract execution. The Payment and Performance bonds must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI").

Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC). Bidders shall submit a clearance from the CNMI Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Surety Questions. Questions and concerns on authorized Surety must be directed to the OIC.

Project Questions. All questions regarding ITB19-Judiciary-03 must be submitted via email to Budget and Finance Director John T. Villagomez at john.villagomez@justice.gov.mp by 12:00 p.m. on August 2, 2019. Responses will be provided to all registered, prospective bidders via email no later than August 8, 2019.

Performance Period. The performance period for this project is sixty (60) calendar days, beginning with the date a Notice to Proceed is issued.

All bids received shall become the sole property of the Judiciary. The Judiciary reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Judiciary.

Bidding procedures will be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30.3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
BUDGET & FINANCE DIRECTOR



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS RFQ NO.: RFQ19-MOT-115

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 04, 2018 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

“PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/S/ **EDWIN P. ALDAN**
MAYOR OF TINIAN
& AGUIGUAN

/S/ **FRANCISCO C. AGUON**
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Lantern ceremony marks group's 41st visit to the CNMI

By **MARC A. VENUS**
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Sanpoen group, in cooperation with the Saipan Mayor's Office, held its annual lantern ceremony last Sunday at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion in Kilili Beach, marking the group's 41st annual visit to the CNMI.

According to Yuki Kishimoto, student exchange pro-

gram coordinator at the Saipan Mayor's Office, the ceremony is intended to offer peace to those who perished during the Battle of Saipan.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said that he is grateful that the group has continued its ongoing tradition of visiting the CNMI and blessing all of the memorial sites throughout Saipan. The group also held separate memorial

services last Saturday at the Banzai Cliff, Suicide Cliff, and the Last Command Post.

Despite the fewer number of Sanpoen participants this year, they were joined by 10 students (ranging in ages from 11 to 16 years of age), compared to last year's 20.

The students were accompanied by eight staff chaperones, with the group being led by high priest Kansho

Kayaki and his brother, Susumu Kayaki.

Apatang said that this was the first time that they used the Kilili Beach for the lantern ceremony, as the regular site at Hopwood Junior High School is still closed off and they will see if the Kilili Beach will be the new designated site for the event.

Among those in attendance was Japan Consul Ono Kazuhiko, 2019 Miss Marianas

Shannon Sasamoto, and 2019 Liberation Day Queen Pernalynn Camacho.

This was Ono's first time to attend the ceremony. He described the occasion as "quite touching" and he hopes that the group can continue this tradition.

"I just want to thank the consul for coming and join-

ing us in this ceremony," Apatang said.

Apatang also said that they held a farewell party for the group at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan poolside last night. He said that more groups will be coming to the CNMI in the coming months, with the Koku-sai Seishonen Kenshu Kyokai group arriving on Aug. 17.

Political status commission OKs budget, schedules

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2nd Marianas Political Status Commission convened last Monday to discuss their budget and finalize their meeting schedules as they take steps toward submitting a final report next year.

The nine-man MPSC, chaired by former senator Pete S. Reyes, adjourned after confirming their budget of \$150,000 for the year while also finalizing a schedule to convene every month.

The commission also decided to hire an administrative assistant to help with the task of reviewing and re-

searching whether it is favorable for CNMI residents to continue their political union with the U.S.

According to Reyes, the commission barely had a quorum of five after he was late for the meeting due to the unexpected rain in the Capitaol Hill area.

"...If I did not come or if one other member did not come, we wouldn't have had a quorum to establish the meeting. I am telling [the members] that we are going to have a schedule that they would have to set in their plans," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Reyes, some

of the members work for the government, so off-island trips are sometimes unavoidable. "I wanted to make sure that those trips are not in conflict with our meetings," he said.

The commission also approved a budget for their task. Reyes noted that while the commissioners are not compensated for their work, the administrative assistant's salary is already included in their \$150,000 budget.

Monday's meeting marked their fifth meeting since the commission's formation. They have an extended deadline to conduct research on all islands to decide whether it is still favorable for the CNMI

to remain in its current political relationship with the U.S. or not.

"The statute gave us two years to do that," he said, noting that their amended deadline would be in the latter part of 2020. "We were extended because, at the time the commission was [created], we did not have any funding."

The MPSC was created in 2017 and conducted their first official organizational meeting in February 2019.

"If there are no more typhoons and no natural disasters that would interfere with our schedules, I am confident we will meet that deadline," Reyes said.

Kilili invites 2019 App Challenge competitors

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) invites all middle school and high school students to showcase their technological design and programming skills by participating in the 2019 Congressional App Challenge. Students may now register online for the challenge, individually or in teams of up to four, at <http://www.congressionalappchallenge.us/>. Online registration and submissions are due Nov. 1, 2019.

"The App Challenge is an opportunity for youth to get hands-on experience with coding, computer science, and [science, technology, engineering, and mathematics]. They are able to get creative and have fun while finding innovative ways to develop their ideas," Sablan said.

The Congressional App Challenge is a nationwide effort to encourage student participation in computer science and coding. Last year, 13 entries competed in the Congressional App Chal-



Marianas High School students Gauen Yang, Mimi Sakano, Celina Wu, and Ian Rei Cataluna, alongside Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), showcased their winning app at the House of Code Demo Day at the Capitol in May.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

lenge in the CNMI.

An "app," short for "application," is a software program that can be run on one or more platforms for different purposes.

Participants may create any type of app, using any programming language and any platform they prefer, so long as it is appropriate, original, and functional to some degree. Submission requirements include a registration form, app information, a 1-3 minute demonstration video, and an exit questionnaire.

"Our young programming talent in the Marianas is expanding," Sablan added. "The App Challenge invites students of all skill levels to express their passion, talent, and creativity in technology."

The 2018 winning app, "The Health Buddy: Diabetes," was designed by Marianas High School students Ian Rei Cataluna, Mimi Sakano, Gauen Yang, and Celina Wu. Cataluna, Sakano, Yang, and Wu presented their app to members of Congress and representatives of the technology

industry this past May at the House of Code reception in Washington, D.C. Check out their app at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SfTcnhOIng&feature=youtu.be>.

More details about the App Challenge are available on the congressional office's website at <https://sablan.house.gov> or the App Challenge's official website, <http://www.congressionalappchallenge.us/>. For more information, contact the congressional office at kilili@mail.house.gov or call 323-2647. (PR)



LeaAnne Eaton is joined on Saipan by her daughter, Rebecca "Becca," and their dog, Koda.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eaton is joined on Saipan by her daughter, Rebecca "Becca," and their dog, Koda. She has been a classroom teacher for 11 years (grades 2-12 in schools ranging in size from 54-2,000 students) and Becca will be going into Grade 7. She has taught in the United States, Belarus, China, and Kazakhstan.

Eaton graduated with a BA in English and Women's Studies from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2008 and earned her initial teaching credential from Loyola Marymount University in California. She is currently working on an MS in Educational Leadership online through the Western Governor's University.

Meanwhile, Culp graduated from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a B.A. in Economics and has over 18 years of experience in the banking and finance industry, most recently working as a consultant in the commercial real estate sector. Culp has also pursued post-graduate work in Counseling and Psychology in addition to coaching soccer and lacrosse for many years.



Culp

He is joined on Saipan by his family: Elizabeth, son Sam (15), and daughters Mimi (12), and Eliza (8). The Culp family moved here this summer from Macon, Georgia and his wife, Elizabeth, works as an Emergency Room Physician at the Commonwealth Health Center.

"We are truly blessed to be living [on] Saipan and especially excited to be a part of the Saipan International School community," said Culp. "We love traveling and being outdoors with our two dogs, Jake and Bear, and plan to take advantage of all of the wondrous opportunities the island has to offer. In addition to teaching I look forward to being a home room advisor to the 10th grade class and supporting our students, faculty, and community this coming year and beyond." (PR)

H-2B petitioners has to include TLC final determination with Form I-129

On July 3, the U.S. Department of Labor implemented its new Foreign Labor Application Gateway system for the H-2B temporary non-agricultural worker program. As of July 3, employers who file an H-2B application for temporary labor

certification in FLAG will only receive a temporary labor certification electronically.

If your application for a temporary labor certification was processed in FLAG, you must include a printed copy of the electronic one-page "final

determination" of your H-2B temporary labor certification approval when you submit your Form I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker. We will consider a printed copy of the final determination as your original and approved tempo-

rory labor certification.

You must also ensure that the DOL Case Number identified on the final determination is the same as the ETA Case Number you provide in Part 5, Item 2 of your Form I-129. (USCIS)

HS students oriented on possible health careers

Students from various high schools looking to further their knowledge in the health

industry recently participated in the 3rd Area Health Education Center Health Sum-

mer Program held earlier this year. The program is hosted by AHEC in partnership with

the Northern Marianas College Community Development Institute.

Students received introductory courses in nursing and rehabilitation and human services offered under NMC's degree programs, which fall under the category of allied health, as well as science and math courses. They also received various presentations from fitness coaches, dentists, doctors, nurses, and other health professionals in the CNMI.

Additionally, two trainers from the Hawaii/Pacific Basin AHEC offered the "Create and Navigate Opportunities in Education, or CANOE, Program" during the second week of the program.

The participants of the CANOE program were able to explore career interests, learn how to set goals, write a resume, improve their memory and study skills,

and how to manage time and money. They also received certification training under the Youth Mental Health First Aid, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.

The AHEC Health Summer program participants also participated in a tour of the Commonwealth Health Center where health professionals employed at the hospital spoke to them about the hospital's services and the career opportunities in the health career field.

For more information about the CNMI Area Health Education Center, please contact Community Development Institute director Arthur De Oro at 237-6805 or e-mail arthur.deoro@marianan.edu. (PR)

NMC to host another free info session



Participants of Northern Marianas College's info session held last week at NMC's As Terlaje campus learned about applying for financial aid, the admissions process, and other items.

Due to the considerable number of participants who attended its last information session, the Northern Marianas College will be hosting another info session for the upcoming fall 2019 semester on Thursday, Aug. 8, 2019, at the NMC Olympio T. Borja Memorial Library at the college's As Terlaje campus, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

The free session, which is open to all prospective students and community members, will provide information about NMC's admissions process, finding money for college, and NMC's various degree programs. It's not too late to apply for financial aid for the fall 2019 semester.

Those who attend will also qualify to receive a waiver of NMC's admission application fee and placement test fees—savings of up to \$75.

College faculty, staff, and students from the different degree and certificate programs at NMC, as well as Student Services representatives from counseling, financial aid, and admissions offices will also be on hand to provide helpful information and answer questions.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis in elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), bachelor of science degree in business management (emphasis in accounting); bachelor of science in criminal justice (through the University of Guam); associate of arts degree in business, associate of applied science degrees in business ad-

ministration (emphasis in accounting, business management, or computer applications), associate of arts in liberal arts (emphasis in education, health and physical education, and social

work), associates of science in nursing, natural resources management, associate of applied science in criminal justice, and hospitality management.

For more information about

the information session and/or applying to NMC, contact the Office of Admissions & Records at (670) 237-6770, email oar@marianan.edu or visit www.marianan.edu. (NMC)

Power interruption today

There will be scheduled power interruption today, July 31, from 8:30am to 2pm, due to a scheduled replacement of primary conductors at Isley Field.

According to a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. notice, this will affect Dandan and the Isley Field and cause a momentary outage in Obyan

village, Sky Chef, and the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting facilities.

Water wells affected include the Isley Wells, IF: 19, 20, and 21. No wastewater lift station will be affected.

This outage will allow power line workers from CUC to safely replace 13,000 linear feet of primary conductors. (PR)

Laolao Bay Golf & Resort signs on as TOC platinum sponsor

As part of its commitment to support community organizations and projects, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort recently signed on as a platinum sponsor for the upcoming 24th Annual Governor's Tournament of Champions.

"The annual Governor's Tournament of Champions has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars that benefit numerous community projects," said Bi Weon Park, president of Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. "We are proud to be part of the event and look forward to the tournament and wish all players good luck."

"Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's support goes a long way to ensure the success of this year's and previous Governor's Tournaments of Champions," said Ben Babauta, TOC tournament director. "We are grateful for the company's unwavering support over the years."

The 24th Governor's Tournament of Champions will be played at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort's east and west courses on Aug. 10 and 11. The two-day event is bigger with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is \$200.

Winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Se-

nior and Super Senior flights will each receive \$500 cash, \$400 cash, \$300 cash, a Casio watch, and \$100 DFS gift certificate for the first to fifth place, respectively. The Ladies Low Gross winners will receive \$500, \$400, and \$300 cash for first to third place, respectively. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will each receive a trophy.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of prizes are at stake in the two-day tournament, including hole-in-one prizes that also include a brand new 2019 Mazda CX-5 Sport and a 2019 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross donated by Triple J Motors, a Nissan Frontier donated by Joeten Motors, one year of free golf donated by Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, and other prizes that will be an-

nounced in the coming days. There will also be thousands of dollars' worth in other prizes that include mobile devices, gift certificates, and more.

Platinum sponsors for the Governor's Tournament of Champions include T Galleria, Triple J Motors, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Marianas Visitor's Authority, and Chivas Regal.

Gold sponsors include

Chong's Corp., Joeten Motors, Power 99, IT&E, RNV Construction, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Blue Stone Management.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2019 TOC, contact Marie Sablan at 236-2572 or Amanda Ramon at 236- 2530. For player information and to download the registration form, visit www.tocSaipan.com. (PR)



From left, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's Franco Santos, April Litulumar, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort president Bi Weon Park, Maria Beltran, Jenepy Sambile, TOC's Rochelle Tomokane, Eppie Merana, Jon Salas, and Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's Paul Park.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adail

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Garlic festival killings are part of a sick American tradition

Two American traditions—summer celebrations and gun violence—collided in jarring fashion over the weekend.

Here in California, a man armed with a military-style rifle snuck through a perimeter fence at the annual Gilroy Garlic Festival and opened fire late Sunday afternoon, killing three people, two of them children, while a dozen others were wounded or injured fleeing the pandemonium. Police on Monday morning were trying to determine why the gunman, identified as Santino William Legan, 19, of Gilroy, decided to shoot up the festival.

A day earlier and on the other side of the continent, gunmen opened fire during a neighborhood Old Timers Day celebration in a Brooklyn, N.Y., park, killing one person and wounding or injuring 11 others. Police were investigating whether the incident was gang-related.

As a nation, we've become slowly accustomed to such senseless violence, with attacks on houses of worship, on schools, at workplaces and on family members. Just last week, police in Los Angeles arrested Gerry Dean Zaragoza after he allegedly shot three family members in Canoga Park, killing two of them, then shot a former girlfriend and a man at a gas station, killing the woman. Then later still, police say, he shot dead a stranger on a bus. Separately, an off-duty Los Angeles police officer grabbing a late taco with his girlfriend and her two brothers in Lincoln Heights confronted a graffiti tagger and was shot and killed.

The inevitable debates after Gilroy will touch on the usual themes. It wasn't the gun, it was the poison in the man's mind. There's some truth to that, given that firearms are inanimate objects. But without a firearm, the man couldn't have shot anyone. And without the semiautomatic function of the firearm, he couldn't have shot so many so quickly. And military-style rifles like the one used Sunday are conceived and designed for battlefields and it's preposterous to sell them for hunting or "self-defense."

The violence, of course, won't move President Trump or Congress to act. Trump tweeted Monday that the shooting was "horrific" and said we should continue to "work together as communities and citizens" to prevent violence. But in fact he has done virtually nothing to address our long-running national scourge. He has fallen into the full embrace of the National Rifle Assn. in ways no other recent president has done. "You have a true friend in the White House," he told the NRA two years ago, after the group spent \$30 million to help get him elected.

In truth, the fault is not Trump's alone. Successive administrations, and Congresses, have failed to break the gun lobby's stranglehold on federal gun policies. And so the nation will continue to suffer gunshot wounds by the dozens each day, and by the tens of thousands each year. And something so harmless as a celebration of garlic, or of a Brooklyn neighborhood, will continue to carry the possibility of violent death.

(c)2019 Los Angeles Times



Tutuhun Ha'ane

Imaribahan ekonomian Marianas seriusu ha ribaha lokue' fondu gi kaha. Puede ti inafekta setbisiu yan oran empleau gi che'chu' niha. Mauleg sa' esta matutuhun ma-ina enteru moneda ni lehislatura pot para umali'e taimanu dispues i distribusion fondu.

Kontodu i gobietnu ha infotma todus pot maribahan moneda. Puede kayada pot no u sapet linala' familia. I tumunug ekonomia kumeke ilegña menus salape' para nesessidat-ta siha diariamente. Ti diskuidu i masusede!

I kantidan kontribusion matulalaika depende gi kinalamten bisnis guine. 'An mauleg hinanau niha pues lamegai ganansia para siha, lamegai lokue' na kontribusion. 'Nai atlibes pues man-appatten tiau hit gi haf' guaha.

'Digital Age'

I finattun mafanana'an "Digital Age"—usun Internet—ha tulai-ka kanaha' todun cho'chu' gi enteru elmundu. Puru puntan kalulotmu 'nai gaige disposision asuntu siha gi keyboard laptop.

Dispues maseha haf' na asuntu siña un'soda' gi Internet. Nina'e hau infotmation para un' tutuhun humusga haf' un' aliligau. Libianu un' soda' kabales haf' dichu i attikulun interes. Chage 'an gai tiempu hau gi ha'ane.

Deste hinemlu' esta edukasion hu rikonose ya satisfechuyu'. Nahuñg na infotmation para tinituhun. Mas man-libianu famaguonta gi estudiun niha pot finana'guen usun internet.

Asuntu

Ti komprendiyun ma-establesen dos na grupun natibu (NMDs) guine gi halacha. I uttimu na grupu para u fan ma-elihe taiguihe konsihiliun munisipat. Kulan guaha sagun inestablesen grupun indihinau. Pa'gu 'nai sosopla i natibu proteksion.

Atan i inapalo'pu' eskalera gobietnu guine: tres mayot yan konsihiliun munisipalidad, konsihiliun indihinau, lehislatura, depattamentu yan ahensia, kulan tiempun mañusun troñku gi todun lugat. I manadan eskalera gobietnu mas gastu kontra i taxpayers gi bandan apas 'sino gastu.

Haf' na benefisiu para hita? Guaha adelantu gi kualidat linala'ta? Guaha ayudu gi monedan familia para fahan nesessidat niha? Kuestion ni debi hita ni publiku ta kuestiona i mansabiun i hegsu' sin ditension. Sentru na obligasion ma-adelantan kualidat linala' tautauta siha.

Lastima i manadan offisina pot natibu lau i kualidat linala' gi halum guma' familia tiha muebague' gi hilu' agradeziyun na adelantu. Ayu ha' kalamten i fina' palabra ni maprintra gi gaseta, rti inayuda i familia fuera de manadan ti man-afagcha' na palabra siha.

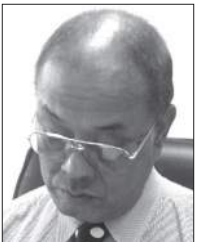
Sakrifisiu

Dispues de selebrasion 75 años deste ke manlibre natibu ginen destrosiun geran dos, hana magem sentimentoghu i sakrifisiun niha antes yan duranten i gera guine.

Todu klasen destrosiu mafana' deste matai membron familia, guma', dinisplantan gera, yan otu siha pinadese. Puntu: mattu

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



dos nasion ya madestrosia linala' natibu lau ti sumasaunau gi gera. Taya' respetu gi mandueñun este siha na petlas! Hokog pinasensian natibu!

Mit gracias sa' dispues man-masede hit dumiside haf' dinisehata gi disposision futuna-ta. Maseha dispasiu lau adumididi' mas mansiña hit gi disposision ha'anita yan futunan famaguonta. Sinsiyu na agradezimientu pot todun ti apasiyun na sakrifisiun miyu!

Lancheru

Deste antigu na tiempu i natibu entalu' gualu' yan tasi 'nai hasosoda' mantension familia. Esta pa'gu este na tradision metgut na katsun hinanau tautau-ta.

Ta usune che'chu' gualu pot mantension. Tana setbe kineni' tasi para ayudu. Felis hinanau familia gi halum haf' modun finaposta—gualu' yan tasi—deste antes. Fitme na pisu gi hinanau amtau na kinalamten natibu.

Maseha i eskalera edukasion natibu adumididi' ha choma' diariu na che'chu' gualu' i sustansian este na pisu gi linala'ta esta pa'gu añgoghuyun.

Gi hinibenhu lokue' hu chage macho'chu' gi dos hagas gualu'. Maseha sune, kamute, choda, nika yan dagu lau guaha mantension familia. Humiddi na hinanau 'nai adumididi' sige ta espiha koyenturan ha'anita.

Maseha makat yan chatsaga ayu na kañada ti siña husoda' tatte pot todun man-adelantau i hagas ta pokate antes. Estoriata!

Inalajan

Hu huñgug un' hobensitu ha kanta pot "Inalajan gi kantun tasi". Bonitu na sunidu pot lugat 'nai sessu man-asoda' tautau i señgsuñ siha gi rinipasan amesta yan asuntun komunida.

Hu agradece i mensahe gi kanta yan bonitun doplaña i patgon. Otru, ti sumaunau si "neni" guine na sunidu. Mauleg i tini-laikan asuntu na biahe. Adahe na manadan kanta pot si neni ni achamegai yan indigustu 'sino dibutsiu! Lastima!

Ayu mas nachalegi i ha fababa i hagan tautau dispues mañgge' kantaña "haf'yu' bai chogue 'an estayu' tiyamu". Adahe lahe higadumu! Pega pronto haf' magahet masusede ke para un' tampe kontodu dinagimu! I minagahet ni unabes 'nai ha birague' mangagau dispensu! Tatnai sisida pot pitbetsomu!

Mauleg ta estira i asuntu siha guatu gi asut tasi, bonitan pulan, pution gi lañget, gatbun flores, gatbun isla, guiha, paluma, yan otu siha attikulu guine. I palabra yan tunada ya umafagcha' paire siempre ennaun na kanta.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Amazon is saving retail, not destroying it

Last week U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin argued that Amazon has “destroyed the retail industry across the United States” and so the Department of Justice is “absolutely right” to investigate it. Both of those premises are dubious: The U.S. retail industry is changing but is very much alive, thank you—and rewriting the rules of antitrust law would hurt the American economy.

First there is the matter of Mnuchin’s assertion about the retail sector. He is not wrong that brick-and-mortar retail sales are flat (if that’s what he meant by “destroyed”).

But what’s happening is a lot more complicated than e-commerce giants such as Amazon stealing business from mom-and-pop stores on Main Street. There is a larger trend at play, involving how Americans are choosing to spend their time as they grow older and wealthier.

A useful comparison may be the way the restaurant industry is changing the grocery business. Government statistics track “food-at-home expenditures” vs. “food-away-from-home expenditures”—basically, whether people eat in or dine out. Increasingly, they are dining out.

As Americans’ incomes rise, they tend to spend more at restaurants. Yet grocery stores still exist—in fact, the grocery-store experience is more varied than ever before.

This is not to say that pressure from the restaurant industry has had no effect on the grocery industry. It has, forcing a sort

of bifurcation of the market: At one end, high-end grocers like Raley’s or Fresh Market have done well, and at the other end Walmart and Aldi’s have also experienced growth. It’s been harder on the middle-of-the-pack grocers. (E-commerce has had the same kind of hollowing-out-the-middle effect on retail.)

Yet there is no outcry that the rise of the restaurant industry is destroying the supermarket industry; it’s understood that these trends reflect decisions American consumers have made about how to spend their time. Similarly, the rise of e-commerce—and remember that Amazon, while the dominant player in e-commerce, still commands less than 5% of the retail market—is not destroying retail but simply responding to how Americans actually behave.

Mnuchin’s other assertion, that his colleagues in the Justice Department are right to look into Amazon, is more debatable and also more dangerous. For almost half a century, the main purpose of U.S. antitrust law has been to protect consumers, not rival producers. If a large corporation can offer better selection at lower prices than small businesses, that’s an improvement.

The courts didn’t always see it that way; for much of the 20th century, courts viewed bigness itself as a problem. A new wave of antitrust crusaders, who are getting a friendly ear in both the Trump administration and among major Democratic presidential candidates, are trying to revive this interpretation.

This would be a mistake. As their supporters are fond of point-

By KARL W. SMITH

Bloomberg News

Karl W. Smith is a former assistant professor of economics at the University of North Carolina’s school of government and founder of the blog Modeled Behavior.



ing out, small businesses are a driving engine of U.S. economic growth and dynamism. Presumably, owners of small businesses want some day to become owners of big businesses. A world in which small businesses are allowed to exist only until they get big would reduce the amount of creative destruction that a dynamic economy needs.

Yes, small-business creation and dynamism are both in decline in the U.S., but that appears to be a function of an aging society: Entrepreneurship is typically a young person’s game, while older consumers are more likely to be loyal to traditional brands. So it’s not surprising that the aging of America tends to naturally suppress both the supply and the demand for new businesses.

Entrepreneurial companies such as Amazon are the best answer to this type of slowdown. These companies are not destroying retail. Just the opposite: They are saving it.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Fresh eyes: These sacred lands I know as home

Summer of 2019 marks the third consecutive summer I’ve lived on Saipan with family, supporting local as well as non-local businesses, honoring the history of our magnificent sites, and enjoying the most sacred beautiful beaches in the world, along with landscapes and trails untouched for hundreds of years. There is something so very special about Saipan. I remember growing up that many teachers and other professionals would come here for work; it’s so nice to run into them still because they’ve come to appreciate Saipan as it deserves. “There is no place like home” has such a deep meaning to me. This year’s Liberation Day parade stirred up so much emotion because of the joy and celebration of resiliency. In the past few years, as a people, there have been much you’ve endured and so much you have overcome! You deserve all the care and recognition for your strength and humility.

The more I explored my island home of Saipan with fresh perspectives and lenses, the deeper my appreciation grew for my heritage, but something else other than its beauty and history compels to defend it. The more I treasure what I see, the more I see a need protect our treasure. The more I feel an urge, the more I see a demand for someone to stand up against littering. The garbage all over the island is a local issue as well as a global concern. According to a *Washington Post* article titled, “By 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in the world’s oceans, study says,” the article states, “It coagulates into great floating ‘garbage patches’ that cover large swaths of the Pacific.” “It has wound up in the stomachs of more than half the world’s sea turtles and nearly all of its marine birds, studies say.”

This is our land! This is our home! We deserve a clean place to live, play, and enjoy the true qualities of life.

I want to give everyone the benefit of the doubt. Maybe it’s psychological and we believe in diffusion of responsibility. Could we suffer from the bystander effect? Have we become provincial? Though I can add more possible reasons to excuse the littering, I believe that maybe we just don’t know where to begin. Being that I was born and raised on Saipan, I can also say, many of Saipan’s appeal and magnificence can easily be taken for granted. Perhaps we assume it’s the government who needs to fix it. Take into account they have tried and are trying. But we need to do better.

In July 2016, the Legislature amended Public Law 6-37, The Commonwealth Litter Control Act of 1989. From there evolved Public Law 19-53. This law authorizes eight agencies such as, BECQ, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.’s Bureau of Environ-

mental Health, Department of Public Lands, Saipan Mayor’s Office, Department of Public Works, and Department of Lands and Natural Resources’ Division of Parks and Recreation to cite anyone littering. Anyone cited may pay fines from \$200 to \$5,000.

Though this law is a start, it is apparent that little to no citations are given as needed. As I would walk from Micro Beach to Inos Park, I would fill up bag after bag, picking up trash from the shorelines. After the weekend, there would be more beer cans, plastic bags, straws, balloons, water bottles, etc. to pick up. I then realized that even if I could champion hundreds to a thousand beach cleanups a year, this would only be a temporary fix. Therefore, I asked myself, “How can I change the minds of those who don’t see this as a problem?” “How can I reach those who allow the trash to be left behind after a beach day with the family?” “How could we teach the tourists before they arrive that we see as important keeping our island clean?” “How could I get (more people) involved to make the biggest difference?”

If we are unified in the idea that each of us can preserve our land, we will do exactly that: Preserve the land we are truly beyond blessed to be a part of.

I decided to address my concerns through this letter as well as offer some solutions. I believe that if it is at the forefront of our minds, we can slowly but surely clean up the trash all over Saipan. We can beautify, maintain and, most of all, honor our land. Changing our thinking will change our actions and I call each person, each ethnicity, each nationality, each person living on and visiting our island to fight this battle with me. Offering awareness is where I choose to begin, but it isn’t where I’ll stop fighting for our precious land, animals, and our children who will inherit this sacred place. We may be a small island, but we are the capital of the Northern Mariana Islands. We are home to such an array of cultures and fascinating people. We are the resplendent hidden gem of the most powerful nation in the world. We too, can change the world!

I have numerous ideas such as adding positive signages. I was appalled to see a “Do Not Defecate” sign on Mt. Tapochau. I think more proactive signs, as opposed to reactive signs, will make an even bigger impact. We need more trash bins. The government already employs staff to clean up after us, but there aren’t enough trash bins on island for us to clean up after ourselves at of our most visited sites. I hope to see bins out of sustainable or recycled goods over plastic bins. I would love to introduce a video to MVA to educate tourists before entering Saipan. We have to

start somewhere; we can all start today!

The following are some solutions I offer; the first solution is to start:

- Because we do not have a recycling plant on island, start using less.
- Use fewer plastic bags; we don’t need them. A few cities have banned plastic bags. They are thriving! San Francisco is now looking to also ban plastic bottles.
- Use reusable bags or keep boxes in your trunk for loading and unloading.
- Start using reusable water bottles as much as you can; use fewer plastic bottles.
- Start using biodegradable items (bags, boxes, cups, etc.)
- Start managing your own compost at home or at your business. (My dad does this already and we use the rich soil to plant beautiful house plants.)
- Start forgetting the straw. Drink from a cup or open the juice box. Reusable straws are available as well.
- Go paperless.
- Start teaching children the importance of cleaning up and preservation.
- Start educating your family on this global plastic problem and getting creative in more ways to make it fun and effective.

I truly appreciate every single aspect our home provides and offers. There are endless possibilities here for all of us. I most especially love the openness to evolve and improve. My affinity for what I wish to help preserve is not only from my own personal attachment to Saipan, but above all, I know firsthand that there is no beauty, hospitality, and resiliency such as ours more than anywhere else in the world. Look around! It took Saipan less than one year to recover from super typhoons! Not one but two of them! I have visited cities in the mainland who have yet to recover from hurricanes 10 years ago. People from around the world come together to help our people, from sending shipping containers filled with donations to watching everyone on island help their neighbor clean up and rebuild. Together we are mighty.






We see now how to never underestimate what we can do as a whole. There is something special about Saipan. I hear it and say it all the time. Let’s love it, preserve it, and honor it by caring for it and keeping it clean.

Naomi Tudela

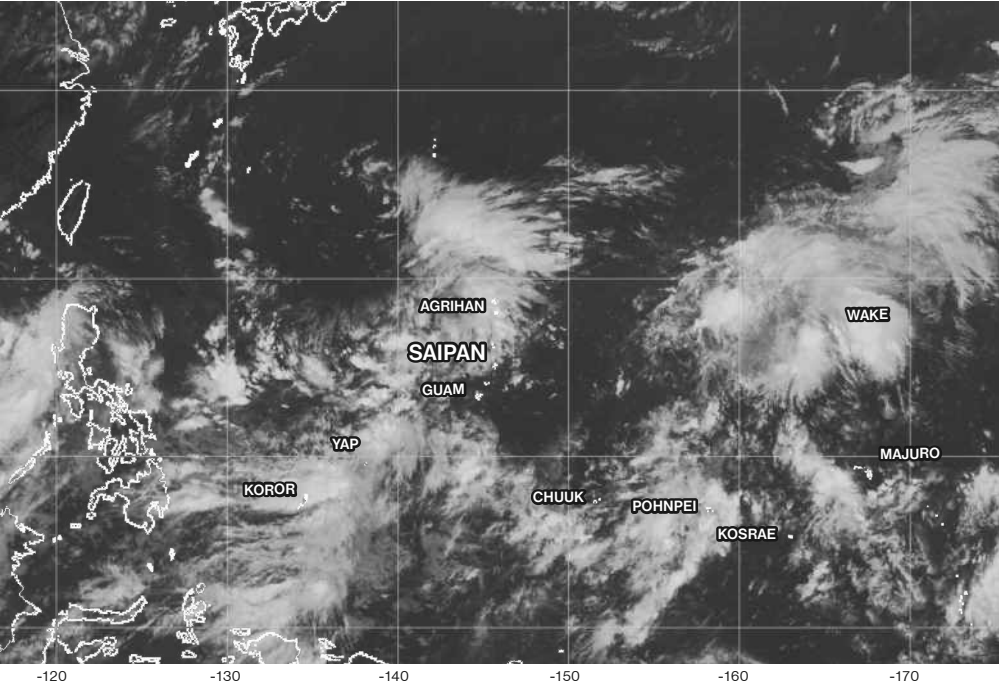
As Teo, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Showers becoming scattered for the afternoon at Guam.		Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	
89°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:41 AM, TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mostly cloudy skies with gentle winds, scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen across the Marianas this afternoon. Latest buoy observations show seas between 2 and 4 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	83° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 76°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 76°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Showers	54° / 50°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	95° / 75°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	88° / 78°	
London	Showers	79° / 59°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 65°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	55° / 45°	
Miami	Thunderstorm	87° / 80°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	89° / 74°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	75° / 59°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	84° / 75°	
Rome	Sunny	90° / 68°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	93° / 72°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	84° / 75°	
Seoul	Thunderstorm	84° / 75°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorm	89° / 72°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 27, 2019

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	00:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily

1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Pualani Crown: The business of blossoms

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Ashley Reiko Pangelinan had always been fond of flowers so it's a dream come true for the Kagman High School alumnae to make her lifelong love of blossoms into a business.

Pangelinan actually started Pualani Crown in Tokyo, Japan in December 2016 and when she returned to Saipan she relaunched the company.

"I always loved flowers since I was a kid and making flower crowns reminded me dearly of my beloved grandma, Maria V. Pangelinan. It was also a good opportunity to turn my hobby into a small business," she said.

It also helped that aside from living in Japan for 3 ½ years, Pangelinan also called Hawaii home for 11 years and everyone knows the 50th state was where headdresses or crowns made of flowers became famous.

All of Pualani Crown's



MYLA DEETS
Pualani Crown owner Ashley Reiko Pangelinan wears one of her creations.



MYLA DEETS
Pualani Crown's flower headdresses range from \$35 to \$85 for adult pieces and pieces for children start at \$25.

need to buy imported flowers like roses from our local florists," said Pangelinan.

So far, Pualani Crown has been getting rave reviews. "The initial reception was really good. I had amazing feedback from my first customers," she said.

Aside from the obvious weddings, Pualani Crown's flower headdresses are also mainstays for bridal showers, bachelorette parties, baby shower, graduations, coronations, style shoots, and farewell parties.

She said the biggest fulfillment she gets from her business is "seeing how people are happy when wearing their flower crowns."

Pualani Crown's flower headdresses range from \$35 to \$85 for adult pieces and pieces for children start at \$25. Pangelinan said she is currently planning a big giveaway with other local vendors in late-August or September.

For orders email Pangelinan at pualanicrown@gmail.com or visit her company's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pualanicrown/ or Instagram: @pualanicrown. Customers can pick up their orders in the entrance parking lot of Tapochau Road, while delivery service is \$10.

Capital One target of massive data breach

SEATTLE (AP)—A hacker gained access to personal information from more than 100 million Capital One credit applications, the bank said Monday as federal authorities arrested a suspect in the case.

Paige A. Thompson—who also goes by the handle "erratic"—was charged with a single count of computer fraud and abuse in U.S. District Court in Seattle. Thompson made an initial appearance in court and was ordered to remain in custody pending a detention hearing Thursday.

The hacker got information including credit scores and balances plus the Social Security numbers of about 140,000 customers, the bank said. It will offer free credit monitoring services to those affected.

The FBI raided Thompson's residence Monday and seized digital devices. An initial search turned up files that referenced Capital One and "other entities that may have been targets of attempted or actual net-

work intrusions."

A public defender appointed to represent Thompson did not immediately return an email seeking comment.

Capital One, based in McLean, Virginia, said Monday it found out about the vulnerability in its system July 19 and immediately sought help from law enforcement to catch the perpetrator.

According to the FBI complaint, someone emailed the bank two days before that notifying it that leaked data had appeared on the code-hosting site GitHub, which is owned by Microsoft.

And a month before that, the FBI said, a Twitter user who went by "erratic" sent Capital One direct messages warning about distributing the bank's data, including names, birthdates and Social Security numbers.

"I've basically strapped myself with a bomb vest, (expletive) dropping capital ones dox and admitting it," one said. "I wanna distribute those buckets i think first."

headdresses are made by Pangelinan herself. "All my flower crowns that I make are handmade with love and love songs by me."

According to her, making flower crowns also isn't really that hard. "Anyone can do it.

They just need the time and patience to learn from someone like me or watch DIY flower crown on YouTube to make a beautiful flower crown."

In making them, she uses different types of wires like grapevine wire, binding

wire, floral wire, and floral tape that she buys online at Amazon, while flowers are sourced locally.

"Most of the flowers I use for my arrangements are locally found in my garden and neighborhood. Occasionally I

Lawsuits stemming from gas explosions settled for \$143M

LAWRENCE, Mass. (AP)—A series of class action lawsuits stemming from the natural gas explosions in Massachusetts have been settled for \$143 million, the utility blamed for the disaster and lawyers for the plaintiffs announced Monday.

The settlement is subject to the approval of a judge, according to Columbia Gas of Massachusetts, and its parent, NiSource Inc.

"Today marks another important step forward, as we continue to fulfill our commitment to residents and businesses," NiSource President Joe Hamrock said in a statement.

The explosions and fires in the Merrimack Valley communities of Lawrence, Andover and North Andover on Sept. 13 killed one person, injured about 25 others, and

damaged or destroyed more than 100 buildings. Many people were forced into temporary shelter, and thousands of homes and businesses went without natural gas service for weeks and even months during the winter.

"Families suffered for months in the gripping cold. Businesses shuttered, and lives were upended," Elizabeth Graham, co-lead attorney for the plaintiffs, said in a statement. "To this day, the people most impacted by the explosions are not fully back on their feet, but we believe this settlement is the quickest and most just method to ensure that residents and businesses are made whole again."

The explosions were blamed on an overpressurization of gas transmission lines during routine replacement.

The National Transportation Safety Board is continuing its investigation.

The agreement announced Monday is separate from an \$80 million settlement reached in May with the three communities to address infrastructure damage.

It is also separate from settlements with two families.

In July, Columbia settled with the family of Leonel Rondon, 18, who died when a chimney collapsed on his vehicle in the driveway of a friend's home.

In April, the utility settled with the Figueroa family, of Lawrence. Several members of the family were injured and their home was heavily damaged. Details of the Rondon and Figueroa settlements have not been made public.

"I don't think anything can ever be fair to a community

where so many people lost family members, lost homes, lost livelihoods," Republican Gov. Charlie Baker responded when asked Monday if he believed the settlement was a fair one.

Baker, however, added that victims of the disaster were well represented in negotiations with the utility, "and if they believe that was a deal worth signing, I'm going to side with them on that."

NiSource has so far spent about \$1 billion responding to the disaster, the company said.

Residents of the three communities will be entitled to recover compensation for disruption of their lives and property damage not previously covered, according to the attorneys. Businesses will be able to claim lost income and lost inventory.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

27,221.35
+28.90
.11%

S&P

3,020.97
-4.89
0.16%

NASDAQ

8,293.33
-36.88
0.44%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.4499
British Pound	0.8240
Canadian Dollar	1.3174
Chinese Yuan	6.7703
Euro	0.8983

Hong Kong Dollar	7.8234
Indian Rupee	68.0725
Japanese Yen	108.6270
Malaysian Ringgit	4.0793
New Zealand Dollar	1.5090
Philippine Peso	50.0554

Russian Ruble	63.2759
Singapore Dollar	1.3700
South Korean Won	1161.69
Swiss Franc	0.9915
Taiwan Dollar	30.5575
Thailand Baht	30.7685

Nation

California town pledges to remain strong in wake of shooting

GILROY, Calif. (AP)—Only a few days ago, Gilroy was known for one thing: garlic. The rural community near San Francisco lived and breathed the prized, pungent crop.

Now it's the site of the latest American mass shooting.

On Sunday evening, a 19-year-old gunman with apparent white supremacist views slipped into the annual Gilroy Garlic Festival and unloaded an assault-style weapon before police shot him to death.

On Monday night, hundreds of residents held a candlelight vigil to mourn a 6-year-old boy, a 13-year-old girl and a New York college graduate who were slain. Twelve others were injured.

As they raised votive candles, long tapers or tea lights, they also raised their spirits in the defiant cry of "Gilroy Strong."

A sign reading the same underneath an American flag covered in two garlic cloves hung from the front of the stage.

"We cannot let the bastard that did this tear us down," Mayor Roland Velasco declared to cheers.

It was the cry heard so often after shootings at schools, parks, movies, nightclubs and festivals around the country.

From Washington, President Donald Trump condemned the "wicked murderer."

The shooting brought out renewed demands for national gun control by politicians in California, which already has some of the strictest firearms laws in the nation. Gov. Gavin Newsom called for controls on high-powered, high-capacity guns he labeled "weapons of mass destruction."



Robbie Ramirez, 10, holds onto his father, Robert Ramirez, during a vigil for victims of a Sunday evening shooting that left three people dead at the Gilroy Garlic Festival, Monday, July 29, 2019, in Gilroy, Calif.

"Today, I met with a 12-year-old who was shot while in a bounce house. A grandmother mourning the loss of her 6-year-old grandson," Newsom tweeted. "This is America today — the shootings continue. Loved ones are buried. Children are gunned down. And Congress does nothing."

"It keeps happening, over and over and over again, on their damn watch," Newsom told reporters. "I can't put borders up in a neighboring state where you can buy this damn stuff legally."

The shooter, Santino Wil-

liam Legan, legally purchased the semi-automatic assault rifle this month in Nevada, where his last address is listed. He would have been barred from buying it in California, which restricts firearms purchases to people over 21. In Nevada, the age limit is 18.

While authorities sought a motive for the killings, they noted that he had posted white supremacist views. He urged his Instagram followers to read a 19th century book popular with white supremacists on extremist websites. It appeared with a photo of

Smokey the Bear in front of a "fire danger" sign. Legan also complained about overcrowding towns and paving open space to make room for "hordes" of Latinos and Silicon Valley whites.

In his last Instagram post Sunday, Legan sent a photo from the Gilroy Garlic Festival minutes before opening fire.

Under it, he wrote: "Ayyy garlic festival time" and "Come get wasted on overpriced" items. Legan's since-deleted Instagram account says he is Italian and Iranian.

The postings are among the

first details that have emerged about Legan since authorities say he appeared to fire at random, sending people running and diving under tables. Police patrolling the event responded within

5 dead, 2 injured in residential shootings in Wisconsin town

CHIPPEWA FALLS, Wis. (AP)—A shooter killed three family members at a home in a small Wisconsin town, then went to a residence in a nearby community and opened fire on more people, sheriff's officials said Monday.

The shootings some 9 miles (14.5 kilometers) apart in northwestern Wisconsin left a total of five people dead, including the suspect, and two others wounded, authorities said.

Authorities found the shooter and another person dead while responding to a 911 call in Lake Hallie in about 10:30 p.m. Sunday, Sheriff James Kowalczyk told WQOW-TV. Authorities said the dead were a man and a woman, but Kowalczyk didn't say which one was the shooter or how authorities were able to determine who the shooter was.

Two other adults at the home in Lake Hallie were rushed to the hospital with gunshot wounds. There was no immediate word on their conditions.

Authorities looking to notify the shooter's relatives then went to a home in the Town of Lafayette around 2:30 a.m. Monday and discovered three



a minute and killed Legan as he turned the weapon on them.

Legan grew up less than a mile from the park where the city known as the "Garlic Capital of the World" has held its three-day festival for four decades, attracting more than 100,000 people with music, food booths and cooking classes.

Police searched Legan's vehicle and the two-story Legan family home, leaving with paper bags. Authorities also searched an apartment they believed Legan used this month in remote northern Nevada. Officials didn't say what they found.

more bodies, Kowalczyk said.

"We went to the door, received no answer, attempted to make a call, again no answer. We finally forced our way in and found three other victims of a homicide," Kowalczyk said.

The dead there were a man, a woman and a boy.

The names of the victims and the shooter have not been released. Kowalczyk told WQOW that authorities were still trying to determine a motive. The sheriff didn't immediately return a phone message left by The Associated Press.

Hannah Larson, who lived in the same four-unit complex in Lafayette, told the Minneapolis Star Tribune an 8-year-old boy lived there along with his father and grandmother. Larson said the 8-year-old had sometimes played with her 7-year-old brother.

Lafayette Chairman Dave Staber said the shooting in his town has rocked the normally quiet, bedroom community of 6,000.

"We're seldom in the news, which is just the way we like it. My heart goes out to the residents affected by this," Staber said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Gay counselor sues Indianapolis archdiocese over her firing

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—A gay guidance counselor is suing the Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis, accusing it of discrimination for firing her because she's in a same-sex marriage. Lynn Starkey filed her federal lawsuit Monday against the archdiocese and Roncalli High School. The Indianapolis Star reports the suit accuses the archdiocese and the Indianapolis school of retaliating against her, subjecting her to a hostile work environment and discriminating against her on the basis of her sexual orientation. The archdiocese said in a statement that Starkey had "knowingly violated" her contract by entering into a same-sex mar-

riage, "making clear that she disagrees with the Church's teaching on marriage." Archbishop Charles Thompson has said the recent firings of gay teachers at two Catholic high schools were about upholding church teachings on marriage and not sexual orientation.

Inexperience and speed cited in crash that killed 4 teens

BURNS, N.Y. (AP)—State police say driver inexperience, distraction and speed were factors in a crash that killed four teenagers and injured a fifth. Trooper Mark O'Donnell tells the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle the sole survivor of Saturday's early morning crash in western New York was the only one wearing a seatbelt. The crash in Burns killed 16-year-

old driver Rebecca Earner, 16-year-old Ambra Eddleton, 14-year-old Justin Carpenter and 14-year-old Kyrstin Wolfanger. Sixteen-year-old Kelsi Bird remained hospitalized in satisfactory condition Monday. O'Donnell says the sport-utility vehicle was going 50-60 mph when it hit an embankment and a tree. He says the teens had been driving around playing music and having fun, but no drugs or alcohol were involved. Grief counseling was scheduled Monday and Tuesday at Dansville High School, where four of the teens were students.

Utility: Flawed sensor wiring played key role in blackout

NEW YORK (AP)—Electrical utility Con Edison says it's figured out more details

about why a relatively small problem escalated into a big blackout in Manhattan earlier this month. The utility had already explained that the July 13 outage happened after a protective system called a relay failed to isolate a faulty high-voltage cable. A relay essentially can trigger a circuit breaker to keep a problem contained. On Monday, Con Ed explained why the relay system didn't work as expected: because of a flawed connection between some sensors and relays. The utility says it has fixed the problem and is making sure it won't happen elsewhere in the electrical system. The blackout affected thousands of people for about five hours along a 40-block stretch including Times Square, Rockefeller Center and other busy areas.

Asia

Malaysia's new king calls for racial unity at coronation

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's sports-loving Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah called for racial unity as he was installed Tuesday as the country's 16th king under a unique rotating monarchy system.

It was a double celebration for Sultan Abdullah from central Pahang state, who turned 59 the same day. He was picked as Malaysia's new ruler in January, after Sultan Muhammad V from northeast Kelantan state abruptly resigned after just two years on

the throne in the first abdication in the nation's history.

Nine ethnic Malay state rulers take turns as king for five-year terms under the world's only such system, which has been maintained since Malaysia's independence from Britain in 1957.

In his coronation speech, Sultan Abdullah warned that any attempt to sow racial discord in the country was akin to "playing with fire that will burn not only oneself but also burn down the whole village."

"Unity and national har-



In this photo released by Malaysia's Department of Information, Malaysia's King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah kisses a ceremonial "keris," or dagger, during his royal coronation at the National Palace in Kuala Lumpur Tuesday, July 30, 2019.

mony are the country's pillars of strength. Do not ever stoke racial misunderstanding by raising matters that can threaten national unity and harmony," he said.

Garbed in black and gold regalia, Sultan Abdullah voiced confidence that Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's government is able to tackle economic and social challenges in trying

to rebuild the country after winning last year's elections.

A large number of ethnic Malay Muslims, who make up about 60 percent of Malaysia's 32 million people, still support

the opposition. While carrying out economic and institutional reforms, Mahathir's multiethnic alliance has to quell fears among Malays that their privileges under decades-old affirmative action that favors them in jobs, business and education will be eliminated.

Ethnic Chinese and Indians comprise about 30 percent of the population.

Mahathir in his speech acknowledged minor incidents of racial strife and said the government has set up an advisory body to strengthen racial unity. He said the government will step up efforts to bolster the economy and fight corruption to ensure that "no one is above the law."

Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan also attended the ceremony at the national palace, steeped in centuries-old Malay tradition.

British-educated Sultan Abdullah is a prominent figure in sport bodies. He is a council member of the world football governing body FIFA, president of the Asian Hockey Federation, and an executive board member of the International Hockey Federation.

He took over after Sultan Muhammad V, 49, quit shortly after marrying a 25-year-old former Russian beauty queen last November. Sultan Muhammad however, reportedly divorced his wife recently.

Known as the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, or He Who Is Made Lord, Malaysia's king plays a largely ceremonial role, since administrative power is vested in the prime minister and Parliament. The monarch is highly regarded as the guardian of Islam and Malay tradition, particularly among the Malay Muslim majority. He is also the nominal head of the government and armed forces.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistani army plane crashes into homes, killing at least 17

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan (AP)—A Pakistani military plane on a training flight crashed into homes near the garrison city of Rawalpindi before dawn Tuesday, killing at least 17 people, most of them on the ground. Fires, damaged homes and debris were visible in Mora Kalu village on the outskirts of Rawalpindi after daybreak. Troops and police cordoned off the residential area to search for plane debris and investigative evidence after the rescue efforts had ended. Five soldiers, including two army pilots, and at least 12 civilians were killed, the military said in a statement. Farooq Butt, an official at the state-run emergency service, said an additional 15 people were injured. Rescue officials said the death toll could rise since some of those injured were critical. "We have shifted all the bodies and injured persons to hospitals," he told The Associated Press. "Most of the victims received burn injuries and children are among the dead." Residents say they woke up when they heard an explosion and saw debris of a burning plane near their homes. Army helicopters were seen hovering over the crash site later.

India's tiger population rises to nearly 3,000

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's tiger population has grown to nearly 3,000, making the country one of the safest habitats for the endangered animals. Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the tiger count for 2018 on Monday and said it's a "historic achievement" for India, whose big cat population had dwindled to 1,400 about 14-15 years ago. India estimates its tiger population every four years. Environment

Minister Prakash Javadekar said the tiger population was 2,226 in the last count, in 2014. The tiger is India's national animal and is categorized as endangered under the Wildlife Protection Act. The human conflict with tigers has gradually increased since the 1970s, when India started a tiger conservation program that carved out sanctuaries in national parks and made it a crime to kill them. "With around 3,000 tigers, India has emerged as one of the biggest and safest habitats for them in the world," Modi said, praising all the stakeholders involved in the country's tiger conservation exercise.

Death toll in attack at Afghan political office rises to 20

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The death toll from an attack against the Kabul office of the Afghan president's running mate and former chief of the intelligence service climbed to at least 20 people on Monday, an official said. Around 50 other people were wounded in Sunday's attack against the Green Trend party headquarters, which lasted hours and included a gunbattle between security forces and the attackers, who were holed up inside the building, according to Interior Ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi. Several gunmen were killed by the security forces, Rahimi said. The attackers' potential target, vice presidential candidate and former intelligence chief Amrullah Saleh, was "evacuated from the building and moved to a safe location," Rahimi said. Some 85 other civilians were also rescued from inside. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but both the Taliban and the Islamic State group are active in the capital and have carried out large-scale attacks in Kabul in the past.

China defends Hong Kong police, blames Western forces

BEIJING (AP)—China blamed Western forces and defended police conduct after Hong Kong endured another weekend of violent clashes between protesters and police.

Some "irresponsible people" in the West have applied "strange logic" that made them sympathetic and tolerant to "violent crimes" but critical of the police force's "due diligence," a Chinese government spokesman said at a news briefing Monday.

"At the end of the day, their intention is to create trouble in Hong Kong, make Hong

Kong a problem to China, in order to contain China's development," said Yang Guang, spokesman for the Chinese Cabinet's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, without mentioning any specific individuals or countries.

He added that such attempts will come to nothing because Beijing will tolerate no outside interference in Hong Kong's affairs.

Residents of the semi-autonomous Chinese territory began protesting in early June for the government to withdraw an extradition

bill that would have allowed people to be sent to stand trial in mainland China, where critics say their legal rights would be threatened. The government suspended the bill, but the protests have expanded to calls for democracy and government accountability.

Police on Sunday repeatedly fired tear gas and rubber bullets to drive back protesters blocking Hong Kong streets with road signs and umbrellas.

The protesters have demanded an independent inqui-

ry into police conduct at the protests, which they say has been abusive.

At least one woman was knocked down when police used rods Saturday to disperse crowds in Hong Kong's Yuen Long area, where officers later charged into a train station swinging batons. Protesters were "holding iron poles, self-made shields and even removing fences from roads," police said in a statement that accused demonstrators of putting officers' lives in danger by surrounding an occupied police vehicle.

World

Johnson presses EU to give way amid no-deal Brexit warnings

LONDON (AP)—Prime Minister Boris Johnson pushed Britain closer to a no-deal exit from the European Union on Monday, insisting he will not hold Brexit talks with EU leaders unless the bloc lifts its refusal to reopen the existing divorce deal.

Johnson is trying to pressure the EU to give ground by intensifying preparations for the U.K. to leave in three months without a withdrawal agreement.

Full Coverage: Brexit

But the pound fell to a two-year low as business groups warned that neither Britain nor the EU is ready for a no-deal Brexit, and that no amount of preparation can eliminate the economic damage if Britain crashes out of the 28-nation trading bloc without agreement on the terms.

Johnson became prime minister last week after winning a Conservative Party leadership contest by promising the strongly pro-Brexit party membership that the U.K. will leave the EU on the scheduled date of Oct. 31, with or without a divorce deal.

The EU struck a withdrawal agreement with Johnson's predecessor, Theresa May, but it was rejected three times by Britain's Parliament. Johnson is insisting the bloc make major changes to May's spurned deal, including scrapping an insurance policy for the Irish border that has been rejected by U.K. lawmakers.



Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, right, sits with Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson, in Bute House, ahead of their meeting, in Edinburgh, Scotland, Monday July 29, 2019.

"The withdrawal agreement is dead, it's got to go," Johnson said Monday as he visited a submarine base in Scotland. "But there is scope to do a new deal."

He said he was "very confident" of getting a new agreement, even though Britain is due to leave the EU in less than 100 days, and the EU insists it won't reopen negotiations or remove the

border "backstop."

Johnson has spoken to several EU leaders by phone since he took office but has no meetings scheduled. His spokeswoman, Alison Donnelly, said he would not agree to negotiations unless the bloc lifts its refusal to change the withdrawal agreement.

"He remains confident that the EU will stop claiming that the withdrawal agreement

can't be changed," she said.

If they don't, she added, "we must assume there will be no deal on the 31st of October."

Before he took office, Johnson said the odds of Britain leaving the EU without a deal were a million to one.

At one point Monday, the pound had fallen by nearly 1.5% to trade at \$1.2214, its lowest level since March 2017.

The pound's woes illustrate concerns in the markets

over a no-deal Brexit. Economists warn that leaving the bloc without an agreement on terms would disrupt trade by imposing tariffs and customs checks between Britain and the bloc. The British government's financial watchdog says that could send the value of the pound plummeting further and push the U.K. into recession.

The Confederation of British Industry, the country's

biggest business lobby group, urged both Britain and the EU to accelerate Brexit preparations. It made 200 recommendations, including new laws, new IT systems and agreements to temporarily maintain some common regulations.

But it said "the unprecedented nature of Brexit means some aspects cannot be mitigated."

"It's like putting sandbags down for a flood. Your kitchen's still going to be underwater but maybe we can save the bedrooms upstairs," said the group's head of EU negotiations, Nicole Sykes.

Another warning came from French automaker PSA, which said it could move production of its Vauxhall Astra model out of Britain if Brexit makes it unprofitable. Chief executive Carlos Tavares told the Financial Times that would mean closing Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant in Wales, which employs 1,000 people.

Johnson, contradicting the opinion of most experts, has said leaving without a divorce deal will be "vanishingly inexpensive" if Britain is properly prepared.

He says he will "turbocharge" plans for a no-deal Brexit—including beefed-up border measures and a multimillion-pound information campaign for individuals and businesses—and has set up a bodies including a high-level Cabinet "exit strategy committee" to oversee preparations.

Putin opponent sent back to jail after suspected poisoning

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was moved back to jail from a hospital Monday even though his physician raised suspicions of a possible poisoning after he suffered facial swelling and a rash while in custody.

Details about Navalny's condition were scarce after he was rushed to a hospital Sunday with what authorities said was a suspected allergy attack inside a detention facility where he was serving a 30-day sentence for calling an unsanctioned protest. The 43-year-old political foe of President Vladimir Putin was arrested several days before a major opposition rally Saturday that ended with nearly 1,400 people detained.

Tensions are running high in Moscow as dozens of protesters remain in custody and the opposition called for a new rally Aug. 3.

In a blog post written in detention, Navalny said he may

have been exposed to an unknown chemical agent while in custody. Navalny recalled how his face started to become swollen on Saturday and it worsened the next day: "I got up in the morning, and when my cellmate saw me, he said: 'You need to see a doctor now.'"

Dr. Anastasiya Vasilyeva, who has been Navalny's physician for several years, visited him Monday shortly before he was discharged from the hospital and sent back to the detention facility even before the necessary tests were run on him.

Doctors at the hospital initially said Navalny had a severe allergy attack, but Vasilyeva said that the swelling and the rash on his face could be consistent with chemical poisoning. She said the incarceration would jeopardize his health.

"He has not fully recovered. He should have been left under medical supervision," she

told reporters outside the hospital, adding that the doctors didn't even try to determine what caused the swelling and rash. "Who is going to watch over him at the detention facility? They are not qualified to provide him with professional help."

Vasilyeva expressed concern that the chemical agent that caused the outbreak could still be in his prison cell.

Navalny's attorney, Olga Mikhailova, told reporters earlier the outbreak was caused by "poisoning, by some kind of chemical substance" but that its source wasn't established. She said he has been given anti-inflammatory steroids and that the swelling subsided.

Navalny said Monday he felt and looked better now—"like someone who's been drinking for a week." His face is visibly swollen in the picture he attached to the blog post, with red circles around the eyes.

Officials say 57 dead in Brazil prison riot; 16 decapitated

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—At least 57 prisoners were killed by other inmates during clashes between organized crime groups in the Altamira prison in northern Brazil Monday with 16 of the victims being decapitated, according to prison officials.

Para state prison authorities said a fight erupted around 7 a.m. between the Rio de Janeiro-based Comando Vermelho and a local criminal group known as Comando Classe A.

"Leaders of the (Comando Classe A) set fire to a cell belonging to one of the prison's pavilions, where members of the (Comando Vermelho) were located," the statement read.

State prisons chief Jarbas Vasconcelos said the fire had spread rapidly with inmates held in old container units that had been adapted for the prison while another building is under construction.

The fire prevented police

forces from entering the building for several hours, he told a news conference.

Two prison staff members were held hostage, but eventually released.

"It was a targeted attack. The aim was to show that it was a settling of accounts between the two groups, not a protest or rebellion against the prison system," Vasconcelos said.

Authorities have not found any firearms following the riot, only makeshift knives.

Prison authorities said 46 inmates will be transferred to other prisons, 10 of which will go to stricter federal facilities.

President Jair Bolsonaro was elected on the promise of curbing widespread violence in Brazil, including in the country's often overcrowded, out-of-control prisons.

The Associated Press obtained a July 2019 report from the National Justice Council

that it says was filed by a local judge in charge of the facility, showing that the prison had 343 detainees for a maximum capacity of 163.

Yet Vasconcelos said the situation did not meet the official requirements to be considered overcrowded. "It is not a unit that has a prison overcrowding, we consider overcrowding when it exceeds 210%," Vasconcelos said during the press conference.

The judge who filed the report described the overall state of the prison in the city of Altamira as "terrible."

In many of Brazil's prisons, badly outnumbered guards struggle to retain power over an ever-growing population of inmates who are able to run criminal activities from behind bars.

The killings echoed those of 55 inmates who died in a series of riots in May in several prisons in the neighboring state of Amazonas.

Focus

Sailing to America: Teen to bring her climate activism to US

AP
In this photo taken on Friday, July 26, 2019, Greta Thunberg stands next to Swedish parliament in Stockholm. Thunberg, the Swedish teenager whose social media-savvy brand of eco-activism has inspired tens of thousands of students in Europe to skip classes and protest for faster action against climate change, said Monday, July 29, 2019 that she plans to take her message to America the old-fashioned way: by boat.

By DAVID KEYTON and
FRANK JORDANS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Greta Thunberg, the Swedish teenager whose social media-savvy brand of eco-activism has inspired tens of thousands of students in Europe to skip classes and protest for faster action against climate change, said Monday that she plans to take her message to America the old-fashioned way: by boat.

The 16-year-old tweeted that she'll sail across the Atlantic aboard a high-tech racing yacht, leaving Britain next month to attend U.N. climate summits in New York in September and Santiago, Chile, in December.

Thunberg told The Associated Press ahead of her announcement that she spent months trying to figure out how to travel to the U.S. without using planes, which she has long shunned because of their high greenhouse gas emissions.

Cruise ships are also notoriously big polluters, while sailors rarely brave the Atlantic in August because of hurricane risks.

"Taking a boat to North America is basically impossible," she said in an interview during her weekly "Fridays for Future" protest outside the Swedish parliament in Stockholm. "I have had countless people helping me, trying to contact different boats."

Thunberg plans to take a year off from school to keep raising awareness of climate change and pressuring world leaders to step up efforts to curb global warming.

Since starting her "school strikes" in August 2018, the daughter of an actor and an opera singer has appeared before policymakers at last year's U.N. climate conference in Poland

and harangued business and political leaders at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. She also met with Pope Francis, who praised Thunberg's efforts and encouraged her to continue campaigning.

Although little-known in the United States, Thunberg has arguably become the figurehead for a new generation of European eco-activists worried that they'll suffer the fallout from their parents' and grandparents' unwillingness to take strong actions to combat climate change.

"This past year, my life has turned upside down," Thunberg told the AP. "Every day is an adventure, basically. Sometimes I have to pinch myself and say 'Is this really real? Has this actually been happening?' Because it has all happened so fast and it's hard to keep up with everything."

"In a way, I am more optimistic, because people are slowly waking up and people are becoming more aware of the situation. This whole 'Fridays for Future' movement is very hopeful," she said. "But also ... one year has passed and still almost nothing has happened."

Thunberg has spearheaded a change in the climate debate in Europe largely because her activism resonated with so many children, said Greenpeace Germany executive director Martin Kaiser.

"She has read all the science," he said. "That gives her a lot of credibility. She has motivated a whole generation in Europe to learn about climate change."

Her visibility has made Thunberg a target for those who reject the overwhelming consensus among scientists that climate change is being driven by man-made emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, released



AP
In this photo taken on Friday, July 26, 2019, Greta Thunberg, third from right, sits with fellow students outside Swedish parliament in Stockholm. Thunberg, the Swedish teenager whose social media-savvy brand of eco-activism has inspired tens of thousands of students in Europe to skip classes and protest for faster action against climate change, said Monday, July 29, 2019 that she plans to take her message to America the old-fashioned way: by boat.

by the burning of fossil fuels.

"I don't care about hate and threats from climate crisis deniers," she said. "I just ignore them."

Thunberg said she's unsure how her message will be received in the United States, where there's broad opposition to the kind of radical measures scientists say are required to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) by the end of the century compared with pre-industrial times.

"I will just try to go on as I have before," the young Swede said. "Just always refer to the science and we'll just see what happens."

Thunberg wouldn't rule out meeting with President Donald Trump, who wants the U.S. to withdraw from the landmark 2015 Paris climate accord,

but appeared doubtful such an encounter would happen because she thinks it would be "just a waste of time."

"As it looks now, I don't think so, because I have nothing to say to him," she told the AP. "He obviously doesn't listen to the science and the scientists. So why should I, a child with no proper education, be able to convince him?"

Aside from attending a summit hosted by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the global body's annual assembly on Sept. 23, Thunberg plans to take part in several climate protests in New York. The British band The 1975s has released an album with a short essay by Thunberg set to music. It ends with her declaring "it is now time for civil disobedience. It is time

to rebel."

Thunberg stressed that she rejects violence, citing her school strikes for climate as the kind of action she backs. Last week she deleted a tweet showing her wearing a T-shirt with the slogan "Antifascist All Stars," after some accused her of supporting far-left extremists.

"You can rebel in different ways," she said. "Civil disobedience is rebelling. As long as it's peaceful, of course."

After New York, Thunberg intends to travel to the annual U.N. climate conference in December, held in Chile this year, with stops in Canada, Mexico and other countries along the way, traveling by train and bus.

The yacht she'll be crossing the Atlantic with is a far cry from the Viking ships that first brought Scandinavians to America. The 60-foot (18-meter) Malizia II is fitted with solar panels and underwater turbines to generate zero-carbon electricity on board.

Thunberg will also be accompanied on the two-week journey by a filmmaker, her father Svante and Pierre Casiraghi, the grandson of Monaco's late Prince Rainier III and American actress Grace Kelly.

"I haven't experienced anything like this before," Thunberg said, a giggle breaking her normally serious demeanor. "I think this will be a trip to remember."

Thunberg will be setting a very high bar for the activists and leaders from outside the Americas who are attending the U.N. climate conferences, almost all of whom will likely be coming by plane.

"I'm not saying that people should stop flying," she said. "I'm just saying it needs to be easier to be climate neutral."

Good Housekeeping

Old Town and Swallowtail Flats, an ecological dreamland

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

If you live in an upscale apartment called Co-reopsis, Milkweed or Lantana then there is a good chance you live in Swallowtail Flats. In all likelihood, you are seeing more butterflies, obviously swallowtails, but others, as well, and of course hummingbirds, too.

Such is the case for residents of Old Town, a Southern Living Community in North Columbus, Ga. While Swallowtail Flats, the apartment community in Old Town, has daily reminders of this pollinator success story, the residents

living in the historical looking homes reminiscent of yesteryear are just as passionate with their landscapes adding to the overall feeling of living in an ecological dreamland.

Swallowtail Flats is the epicenter of butterfly and pollinator activity as the developers hoped it would be. If you would visit today, you would quickly notice that the Miss Huff lantanas are like the pollinator superhighway. This lantana, discovered by Miss Huff in Georgia, is vigorous beyond your dreams. Even in zone 7, this is the one that returns faithfully year after year.

Miss Huff has all of your favorite hues, pink, yellow, and orange and is a kaleidoscope of ever-changing colors. Warning, it is not for the faint of heart; it will grow large to a point you feel comfortable using hedge trimmers. But now, in a hot July, a cluster of these will keep the amateur or professional lepidopterist in a state of ecstatic bliss for hours. Shoot, you may just want to get a fold-up chair and some binoculars to see what comes in next.

On a recent visit, I found it hard to count how many swallowtails, gulf fritillaries, skip-

pers, common buckeyes, and, of course, bees there were, all in a feasting frenzy. The butterfly garden features, buddleia or butterfly bush, layered out to hydrangeas, and vitex. There are butterfly topiaries

and ornate butterfly benches. But, as you drive the complex, you will see a variety of species of zinnias, salvias, gomphrenas, and agastache, or hummingbird mint, all flittering with pollinators.

The stop signs are likewise decorated with butterflies, and, of course, the beds in which they are placed are floriferous. The issue here is that geeks, like The Garden Guy, tend to linger a few extra minutes at the stop sign gawking at a swallowtail, or a hummingbird, and on more than one occasion, shooting a photo through the car window.

The plantings of Swallowtail Flats encourage pollinators like bees, butterflies, and

hummingbird, but also, they brought in the most colorful of songbirds, the American Gold Finch. I wrote about this a few weeks ago; the American Gold Finches are still there feeding on zinnia and gomphrena seeds.

Once you start planting for butterflies, the way Old Town and Swallowtail Flats has, the entire ecosystem is enhanced for pollinators, birds, lizards, tree frogs and so much more. Could it be that, if you plant beautiful flowers for butterflies and pollinators, it makes people want to live there and thus the joy of life skyrocket? This is a lesson for all cities, communities, and neighborhoods.

Tips and chores for gardening in August

Newsday

It's time to harvest some plants and sow others, but whatever you do, don't take your eyes off your garden during what can be a harsh, hot and dry month. While you're enjoying the fruits of your labor (hello, tomatoes!), get a jump on next year's garden by keeping on top of weeds, relocating and dividing perennials, and ordering spring bulbs. And if you're leaving for vacation, remember to arrange for a surrogate caretaker.

1 The 13th annual Great LI Tomato Challenge is coming! Long Islanders, send your photos and tips to jessica.damiano@newsday.com. The rest of you, enjoy the fruits of your labor.

2 Sow seeds of lettuce, radish, spinach, peas and other cool-season crops right into the garden now for a fall harvest.

3 Yank weeds as soon as you notice them; that will prevent them from becoming unmanageable and reduce next year's population.

4 Deadhead annuals and perennials, and many will put on a second (or third) show.

5 Stop fertilizing trees, shrubs and perennials.

6 Start relocating evergreens, digging up as much of their root systems as possible.

7 Keep watering trees and shrubs, especially those planted this year; they'll need extra TLC until their first frost.

8 If you haven't already, get your spring bulb orders in before catalogs sell out of your first choices. They should ship at the right planting time in fall.

9 If cabbage heads are split, bring them indoors as soon as you notice. Those left on the plant will become inedible.



TNS

Tips and chores for gardening in August.

10 Keep mower blades set at 3 inches or higher; grass needs length to photosynthesize and thrive.

11 Don't let zucchini grow too large; they taste better, and are more tender, when smaller.

12 For the best taste, let tomatoes ripen on the vine.

13 Apply a liquid seaweed product to hybrid tea roses (follow package instructions) to help prevent heat wilt.

14 Harvest onions when their foliage flops over, cure in a well-ventilated area for 10 days, then store in a cool, dark room.

15 Divide spring bloomers like Japanese and Siberian iris.

16 If houseplants were moved outdoors for summer and are outgrowing their pots, move them into the next size container.

17 Harvest beets when 2 inches wide. Don't forget, you can sauté and eat the foliage, too (don't try this with leaves of other crops; some will make you sick).

18 If you haven't sprayed roses, you can use their hips to make tea and jam.

19 Water the lawn deeply when needed instead of sprinkling lightly every day. Aim for a total of 2 inches per week, including

rainfall.

20 Remove fallen fruit from around trees, and clear leaves and debris to avoid pest and disease problems.

21 If you want to relocate spring bulbs, transplant them now.

22 It's time to renovate the lawn! Remove dead patches, aerate, apply compost and seed. Water deeply just once, then sprinkle twice a day.

23 Long Islanders, join me at 7 p.m. for the Great Long Island Tomato Challenge at Newsday (235 Pinelawn Rd., Melville). Bring your biggest tomato, and you might be crowned king or queen.

24 Collect seeds from daylilies, Cleomes, rose campions and other podding plants and store in a paper envelope in the fridge, away from fruit, until spring.

25 Move vacationing houseplants and potted tropicals into a shady spot for five days to acclimate them for their move indoors.

26 Divide and transplant peonies, keeping eyes no more than an inch beneath the soil.

27 Monitor container moisture levels at least once daily; potted plants need more water than those growing in the garden.

28 If electrical storms are forecast, remember to turn off pond pumps.

29 Make free plants with cuttings of geraniums and wax begonias, rooted indoors. Care for them as houseplants until spring, then plant outside in pots or directly in the garden.

30 Move houseplants and potted tropicals back indoors until Memorial Day.

31 Re-edge beds to tidy up their appearance.



TNS

Swallowtail Flats flowerbeds geared for pollinators also brought in American Gold Finches to feed on flower seeds.

Life & Style

Jury: Katy Perry's 'Dark Horse' copied Christian rap song

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A jury on Monday found that Katy Perry's 2013 hit "Dark Horse" improperly copied a 2009 Christian rap song in a unanimous decision that represented a rare takedown of a pop superstar and her elite producer by a relatively unknown artist.

The verdict by a nine-member federal jury in a Los Angeles courtroom came five years after Marcus Gray and two co-authors, first sued in 2014 alleging "Dark Horse" stole from "Joyful Noise," a song Gray released under the stage name Flame.

The case now goes to a penalty phase, where the jury will decide how much Perry and other defendants owe for copyright infringement.

Questions from the jury during their two full days of deliberations had suggested that they might find only some of the defendants liable for copyright infringement. The case focused on the notes and beats of the song, not its lyrics or recording, and the questions suggested that Perry might be off the hook.

But in a decision that left many in the courtroom surprised, jurors found all six songwriters and all four corporations that released and distributed the songs were liable, including

Perry and Sarah Hudson, who wrote only the song's words, and Juicy J, who only wrote the rap he provided for the song. Perry was not present when the verdict was read.

Other defendants found liable were Capitol Records as well as Perry's producers: Dr. Luke, Max Martin and Cirkut, who came up with the song's beat.

Gray's attorneys argued that the beat and instrumental line featured through nearly half of "Dark Horse" are substantially similar to those of "Joyful Noise." Gray wrote the song with his co-plaintiffs Emanuel Lambert and Chike Ojukwu.

"Dark Horse," a hybrid of pop, trap and hip-hop sounds that was the third single of Perry's 2013 album "Prism," spent four weeks atop the Billboard Hot 100 in early 2014, and earned a Grammy nomination for Perry, who performed the song during her 2015 Super Bowl halftime show.

Her attorneys argued that the song sections in question represent the kind of simple musical elements that if found to be subject to copyright would hurt music and all songwriters.

"They're trying to own basic building blocks of music, the alphabet of music that should be available to everyone," Perry's lawyer Christine



This April 11, 2019 file photo shows Katy Perry at the 10th annual DVF Awards at the Brooklyn Museum in New York. AP

Lepera said during closing arguments Thursday.

The defendants' musical expert testified that the musical patterns in dispute were as simple as "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

But the jury of six women and three men disagreed, finding that the bumping beat and riff at the center of "Joyful Noise" were original enough to be copyrighted.

Perry and the song's co-

authors testified during the seven-day trial that none of them had heard the song or heard of Gray before the lawsuit, nor did they listen to Christian music.

Gray's attorneys had only to demonstrate, however, that "Joyful Noise" had wide dissemination and could have been heard by Perry and her co-authors. They provided as evidence that it had millions of plays on YouTube and Spotify, and that the album it's included on was nominated for a Grammy.

"They're trying to shove Mr. Gray into some gospel music alleyway that no one ever visits," said plaintiffs' attorney Michael A. Kahn during closing arguments, when he also pointed out that Perry had begun her career as a Christian artist.

A\$AP Rocky trial to get underway in Sweden

HELSINKI (AP)—American rapper A\$AP Rocky and two other men believed to be members of his entourage is going on trial Tuesday in Sweden in a high-profile legal case that has caught the attention of U.S. President Donald Trump and rallied music and entertainment celebrities among others.

The trial of the recording artist, whose real name is Rakim Mayers, starts in Stockholm District Court, which also has set aside Thursday and Friday for the case.

Swedish prosecutors allege that the Grammy-nominated rapper and the two other suspects "deliberately, together and in agreement" attacked the alleged victim, Mustafa Jafari, in central Stockholm on June 30.

The charges carry a maximum sentence of two years in prison. Mayers has been in custody since July 3 and has said he acted in self-defense.

The trial will be held in a secure courtroom "because of the large interest from the media and the public," the Stockholm court said, not-



This undated photo made available by the Swedish Police via the Swedish Court, shows an injury sustained by Mustafa Jafari, the alleged victim involved in a fight with rapper A\$AP Rocky on June 30, 2019. AP

ing that no photographing or filming will take place during the proceedings.

Prosecutors alleged in more than 500 pages of court documents that the three suspects beat and kicked Jafari while he was on the ground and that he was hit by parts of or a whole bottle.

Prosecutors also said that Mayers pushed Jafari to the ground and the court docu-

ments include numerous photos of Jafari's cuts, bruises and blood-stained clothes.

The rapper's lawyer, Martin Persson, told Swedish public broadcaster SVT on Monday that he would present the court with new evidence, including showing that "no bottle has been used to hit or injure anyone" and that the violence used was "within the limits of the law."

Lil Nas X sets new Billboard record for most weeks at No. 1

NEW YORK (AP)—It's one sweet day for Lil Nas X: The breakthrough rapper's viral "Old Town Road" has broken the Billboard record set by Mariah Carey's "One Sweet Day" for most weeks at No. 1.

Lil Nas X accomplishes the feat this week as his country-trap song spends its 17th week on top of the Hot 100 chart. Carey and Boyz II Men's duet set the record in 1996, and the only song to come close to breaking it was the ubiquitous international hit "Despacito," which tied the 16-week record in 2017.



Lil Nas X

"YEEE TF HAWWW," Lil Nas X tweeted Monday.

Hours later he posted a video thanking his fans for helping his song set a new record.

"I'm on the toilet right now, but I want to say thank you to every single person who has made this moment possible for me. We just broke the record for the longest-running No. 1 song of all-time," said Lil Nas X, sporting a cowboy hat as he played "Old Town Road" in the background. "Let's go!"

"Old Town Road," which has achieved most of its success through audio

streaming, was originally a solo song but 20-year-old Lil Nas X added Billy Ray Cyrus to the track. The song also has remix versions featuring Diplo, Young Thug, Mason Ramsey and BTS, and Billboard counts the original song and its remixes as one when calculating chart position, thus helping "Old Town Road" stay on top.

"17 is my new favorite number," Cyrus said in a statement Monday, also referring to his debut album "Some Gave All," which spent 17 weeks at No. 1 in 1992. "My goal was always to make music that would touch people's lives around the world."

TV ancestry series is a salve for divided America, host says

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The celebrity ancestry show "Finding Your Roots" has a message to counter divisive political rhetoric, said its host, educator Henry Louis Gates Jr.

The PBS series demonstrates that "we're all descended from immigrants," whether they came to America willingly or as slaves, and all share a common origin, Gates told a TV critics meeting Monday.

"People want that reassurance that we're all the same," he said, especially as some seek to divide the nation and distinguish between who does and doesn't have the right to be an American and live in America.

It was an apparent reference to President Donald Trump's

call for four Democratic House members of color to "go back" to their countries, although all are U.S. citizens and all but one was born in the United States.

"Guess what, we're all home. This is our home. And our ancestors came here and fought for the right to make this our home. ... and we all have an equal purchase on the rights guaranteed by the Declaration (of Independence) and the Constitution," Gates said.

"And I'm going to go down swinging against anybody who tries to divide us because of our apparent ethnic differences or gender differences or sexual preference differences," he said.

"Finding Your Roots,"

which is produced by Harvard professor Gates, returns this fall with guests including Melissa McCarthy, Jordan Peele, Issa Rae, Diane von Furstenberg and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Genealogy research and DNA tests help uncover the celebrities' ancestral backgrounds.

Asked if he'd consider having Trump as a guest, Gates said PBS rules prevent candidates from appearing. Would he consider the president if that wasn't the case?

"I don't pick people by their ideology to be on the show," Gates said. That's been shown with previous guests, including Republican Sen. Marco Rubio and the late Sen. John McCain, he said.

'Stranger Things' breakout star is a spunky seventh grader

NEW YORK (AP)—One of the breakout stars of "Stranger Things" is an actress who wants to do more action roles and maybe get behind the camera. But first, there's seventh grade.

Priah Ferguson, a 12-year-old Atlanta middle schooler, has given season 3 of the sci-fi, back-to-the-'80s Netflix show a jolt of sassy electricity.

Priah plays Erica, a My Little Pony-obsessed, He-Man stealing, walkie-talkie intercepting little sister of Lucas, played by Caleb McLaughlin.

"She's a very confident person and I'm confident," Priah said. "She's a leader. I'm a leader. So we have a lot of similarities."

The actress, who previously has had minor roles on "Atlanta" and "Mercy Street," had quick-or-you'll-miss it moments in season 2 of "Stranger Things" but has roared into the new one with an action sequence and catchphrases like "You can't spell America without Erica" and "Just the facts."



This image released by Netflix shows Priah Ferguson, center, in a scene from "Stranger Things." AP

She was handed a helmet fitted with flashlights and sent though the ventilation shafts of Starcourt Mall to discover what a secret group of Russians was hiding. For this, she earned her reward: "Free. Ice. Cream. For. Life."

"I got to do like a little stunt. So I was like, 'Wow this is something I've always wanted to do,'" she said.

"That was cool."

Her Erica has spunk and verve, liable to scream into a walkie-talkie: "Code red? I got a code for you instead. It's called code shut your mouth." Erica will not stand for nerdiness but there's a little nerd in her, too.

"She's an anti-nerd nerd," the actress says. "A lot of people have a little nerdiness in them. I have a little nerdi-

ness in me."

Adjua Ferguson, her mother, said she and her husband recognized artistic potential in their daughter when she was just 2.

"She was an expressive baby—she always had the most unique expressions and reactions. She always had an old soul. She would just respond to things beyond her years, very conversational,"

she said. "From there, people kept saying she had something special."

Priah hopes to continue acting and maybe direct one day as well. But staying a kid is also a goal. She's not planning to return to her school's drama club this fall.

"I want to separate my act-

ing from school. It just got to be a little too much," she said. "It's just too much drama."

She's taking that message across the country, teaming up with applesauce and yogurt-pouch maker GoGo squeeZ to encourage kids to put aside their devices and embrace unstructured play as part of the "BE Time" initiative.

"I love having free time to stay off my phone, even though I love my phone," she said. "At times it can just be draining. You just need a time to really see the real world."

When at home, Priah walks the dog, creates dances with her little sister, gets on her scooter, is really crafty, adores doing her nails and has lately been getting into Legos. (For the record, she does like ice cream in real life, too.)

Her life is changing—and she's documenting it. "I'm just taking in everything and I keep a journal to know where I go and just share my experience on places that I went to."

Kathy Griffin still working and hustling after Trump photo

NEW YORK (AP)—Kathy Griffin says two days into the fallout of her 2017 photo posing with a fake severed head of President Donald Trump, she knew she should film what was happening.

She was losing jobs, making headline news and the topic of widespread scrutiny, not to mention the subject of a government investigation into whether she was a credible threat.

"I kept saying, 'I think this is an important, historic story,'" Griffin told The Associated Press. "The President and the Department of Justice shouldn't make you unemployable and uninsurable."

The problem was no one wanted anything to do with her. So, she picked up her iPhone and began filming. There's no glam, no production crew—not even microphones. Griffin says she just knew she needed to capture what was happening in the moment and to keep it real.

The result is a feature film, "Kathy Griffin: A Hell of a Story" that's part documentary, part comedy special. She financed it herself and carried a poster from interview to interview on a recent press day.

"Look, I made it at Kinkos, OK? I'm still on the D-list," she quipped, referring to the Bravo reality series that earned her two Emmy Awards.

The documentary portion gets raw, Griffin said. "Like ugly Kathy, no makeup, crying." But it's also funny. Griffin taped stand-up that's edited

into the film. (She tried to sell it as a stand-alone comedy special and "nobody would even look at it.")

The film was well-received at SXSW earlier this year. Fathom Events agreed to show it July 31 in 700 U.S. theaters. What happens next is anyone's guess—Griffin just knows she will keep hustling and she's not giving up.

"I just want people to know you don't have to go down. You can take a few punches, but after I kick the bucket, I want somebody to go, 'You know that crazy red head? They got her but she didn't go down.'"

If you miss one of the showings on July 31, Griffin is the first to admit she doesn't know how fans can see it next. She's hoping it gets picked up somewhere and she'd like to see it available internationally as well, teaching as much about Griffin as Trump.

"Now that I've traveled the world with this story, I know that there's a genuine interest in, 'Who's this guy, what's his deal, how does he operate?'"

She's learned to fend for her-



This July 16, 2019 photo shows Kathy Griffin posing for a portrait in New York to promote her film "Kathy Griffin: A Hell of a Story," in select theaters for one day only on July 31. AP

self by bankrolling her shows, learning about promotions and ad buys and even coordinating the concession and ushers. "It was harder, but it sure kept me busy," said Griffin.

She also had to buy metal detectors because "there were all kinds of incidents. A guy came at me with a knife in Houston," she said.

Even though she says some people remain convinced she's a member of ISIS, she refuses to apologize for the photo and

that it didn't break the law. (She did say she was sorry in the immediate aftermath, but later revoked it.)

"You can be as offended by that photo all you want, that doesn't bother me at all. But I want people to know I didn't break the law. If you take a photo like that, you didn't break the law. I didn't violate the First Amendment in any way. If you take a photo like that, you didn't violate the First Amendment in any way."

Scorsese visits Osage Nation ahead of filming

PAWHUSKA, Okla. (AP)—Director Martin Scorsese has visited Oklahoma and met with the principal chief of the Osage Nation to discuss filming his upcoming adaptation of "Killers of the Flower Moon."

The Tulsa World reported that Scorsese and others involved in the film met with

Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear and other Osage representatives for about two hours to discuss how the movie will accurately portray the tribe's culture, history and language.

The movie is an adaptation David Grann's nonfiction book "Killers of the Flower Moon:

The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI." It documents the 1920s slayings of wealthy Osage tribal members after the discovery of oil on their land.

Standing Bear said Scorsese told him Robert DeNiro will play cattleman William Hale. Leonardo DiCaprio is also set to star.

The Smothers Brothers mark their CBS firing 50 years ago

NEW YORK (AP)—Getting fired from work isn't usually a cause to celebrate. But the Smothers Brothers aren't your run-of-the-mill comedians.

The duo has stepped out of retirement to commemorate the day 50 years ago when CBS canceled their show over their political impudence.

Tom and Dick Smothers—aged 80 and 82 respectively—reunited Monday for several appearances at the Chautauqua Institution and the nearby National Comedy Center in Jamestown, New York.

"It's really an honor to be honored in this way," Tom Smothers told The Associated Press on the eve of the events. "At least we're both alive and not having someone speak for us. We can mumble our own way through."

The two discussed their firing in an onstage discussion and later unveiled a display of archival material they donated to the center, including their iconic red suit jackets, Tom's guitar and Dick's bass, scripts and creative papers, and legal documents.

"People come up to us and say, 'We love you guys. I wish you were on television now,'" Tom Smothers recalled. "It's a different world today."

CBS abruptly yanked "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour" in April 1969 because of their persistent and humorous opposition to the Vietnam War, support of civil rights and tweaking authority. They welcomed controversial anti-war guests and resisted efforts to censor the show. The brothers weren't allowed to use the

phrase "sex education" or joke that someone was "a known heterosexual."

"Don't tell a comedian not to say a certain word. For sure they'll do it," Dick Smothers said. "The funny thing is, I look back at those things. They're so benign, but at the time they were volatile."

The brothers responded to their firing by filing a breach of contract lawsuit, in which CBS lost and ultimately had to pay. "We had such a minor payment dollar-wise, but that wasn't the point," said Tom Smothers. "We had to do it."

Journey Gunderson, the executive director of the National Comedy Center, called "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour" "an inflection point for comedy—influencing generations of comedy creators. We look forward to sharing the Smothers Brothers' important story and preserving it for future generations."

Tom and Dick Smothers continued to perform up to 200 club and concert dates each year after the firing. They took their comedy show to ABC in 1970, to NBC in 1975, and back to CBS in 1988-89, but they never caught on again.

Many comedians see their influence in such envelope-pushing performers as George Carlin and Bill Maher. Tom Smothers is proud of that legacy but points out that wasn't the plan.

"We didn't do it intentionally. No guy goes to war and takes a bullet on purpose," he said. "You have a mission to do."

16-year-old Fortnite world champ wins \$3 million

WWE wrestler Jerry Lawler files suit over son's death

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—World Wrestling Entertainment Hall of Fame wrestler Jerry "The King" Lawler has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against a Tennessee county where his son suffered a fatal injury while incarcerated.

News outlets report the law firm of Rosenblum and Reisman said in a statement on Monday that Lawler is seeking compensatory and punitive damages "for the numerous failures of the county and its employees" that resulted in

the death of former WWE star Brian Christopher Lawler.

The 46-year-old Lawler was found hanging in his Hardeman County jail cell and died the next day at a hospital. Authorities have said the death resulted from a suicide attempt.

Jerry Lawler has expressed doubt about the manner of his son's death.

A message seeking comment from Hardeman County officials wasn't immediately returned.

NEW YORK (AP)—All those hours playing video games have paid off for a 16-year-old.

Kyle Giersdorf, of Pottsgrove, Pennsylvania, won \$3 million as the first Fortnite World Cup solo champion. The competition took place Sunday at Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York.

That payout is more than Tiger Woods made for winning the 2019 Masters Tournament.

Giersdorf, who goes by "Bugha" in the gamer world, says "words can't explain it."

Some 40 million players

competed for a chance to play in the finals.

The tournament offered \$30 million in cash prizes.

In second place, 24-year-old Harrison Chang, of the United States, won \$1.8 million.

The duo competition was won by 17-year-old David Wang, of Austria, and 16-year-old Emil Pedersen, of Norway. They'll split the \$3 million prize.

^{AP}
In this Sunday, July 28, 2019 photo provided by Epic games, Kyle Giersdorf reacts after he won the Fortnite World Cup solo finals in New York.



New rules for 2nd debate: No 1-word answers or show of hands

NEW YORK (AP)—Raise your hand if you can think of some different ways CNN will approach the second Democratic presidential debate, which will unfold over two nights in Detroit on Tuesday and Wednesday.

That's a hint. CNN pledges not to ask questions that require a show of hands by the politicians or that confine all the contenders to a one-word "yes" or "no" answer. NBC News moderator Chuck Todd tried both of these last month for the 2020 Democratic presidential candidates' first debate.

"Invariably a question can be open for interpretation," said Sam Feist, CNN's Washington bureau chief. "Trying to simplify a question into a 'yes' or 'no' answer can be confusing and may not always be fair."

Dana Bash, Don Lemon and Jake Tapper will moderate the two-hour debates, which begin at 8 p.m. ET both nights. With tougher rules governing participation in the third debate in September, it

will be the last time so many candidates—20 of them—will have the debate spotlight.

Obviously important for the candidates, it will also be a big showcase for CNN. A July 18 CNN special that unveiled the candidate lineups for each debate night was widely panned, though the network defended it as an important show of transparency. Feist and his team have been putting debates and town halls together since 2003, so they bring experience to the table.

It's unlikely the CNN debate will reach the viewership levels of the June opener (15.3 million for the first night, 18.1 million for the second) because NBC showed it on both cable and broadcast outlets and because late July is prime vacation time.

Feist said CNN has long resisted "show of hands" questions, so that promise is not related to Todd's experience. One tack that CNN has been trying for its town halls, but may be new to a larger debate audience, is to print moderators'

questions on the bottom of the screen so viewers can see if the candidates are ducking.

"When a candidate is asked a question, sometimes the candidate chooses to answer a different question," Feist said.

This may help CNN to keep its questions short, sharp and focused, said Frank Sesno, head of George Washington University's School of Media and Public Affairs and author of "Ask More: The Power of Questions to Open Doors."

Sesno, a former Washington bureau chief for CNN, said he believes having three moderators is preferable to five, which NBC had, because it helps candidates and viewers focus. Tapper has some experience with one of these large events; he moderated a September 2015 GOP presidential debate with 11 candidates onstage.

CNN plans to stick with certain topics long enough that multiple candidates will have a chance to address them, Feist said.

Candidates will have the

chance to introduce themselves with opening statements and wrap things up with closing arguments. (NBC allowed only closing statements.) Once again, candidates will be allowed 60 seconds to answer a question, with 30 seconds of response time.

PBS adds George W. Bush documentary to its president series

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—A documentary about the life and political career of former President George W. Bush is coming to PBS stations next year.

The two-part documentary, titled "W," will include interviews with historians, journalists and inner-circle members. Among

them: Bush's chiefs of staff, press secretary Ari Fleischer and speechwriter David Frum.

The program will air in spring 2020 as part of PBS' "American Experience" series, PBS said Monday.

"American Experience" senior producer Susan Belows said the documentary

In 2010, the U.S. Census identified the Asian population as the fastest-growing racial/ethnic group in the United States.

PBS says the series will use personal stories to explore the impact of the group on the U.S.

The network announced the series Monday.

PBS to air documentary on EGOT winner Rita Moreno in 2020

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—PBS will air a documentary on EGOT winner Rita Moreno, the network announced Monday.

"Rita Moreno: The Girl Who Decided to Go for It" will chart her decades-long career. It will feature interviews,

archival footage, reenactments of Moreno's childhood and animation.

Norman Lear and Lin-Manuel Miranda have partnered to produce the project, slated to air in 2020.

Moreno is currently filming the Steven Spielberg remake

of "West Side Story." She won a best supporting actress Oscar for the film in 1962.

Her sitcom "One Day at a Time," produced by Lear and co-starring Justina Machado, was just saved from cancellation by Pop TV after three seasons on Netflix.

'Ideal man' refuses to free himself for second marriage

DEAR ABBY: I spent the past 11 years in an emotionally and physically abusive on-again, off-again relationship. I finally got out and am very proud of myself for doing it.

I am now deeply in love with an amazing new man. He is everything I prayed for—the whole deal. There is only one problem: He's married.

I knew he was married, but, Abby, the marriage was phony. The girl used him to become a legal U.S. citizen. She's now back in her home country, apparently "married" and has a family with someone else, but my boyfriend is still married to her.

I don't know the whole legalities, but he still isn't filing for divorce, even though he's constantly telling me he will. I have been with him for almost three years now, and I'm tired of wasting my time. I have never been married, and he married this woman less than a year after meeting her.

He keeps telling me how "full of myself" I am, and/or that I have nothing to worry about. But I'm not getting any younger, and this man IS truly my ideal man. I have tried giving him ultimatums, but we get into arguments that last for hours, and we end up in circles all over again. Help!

ANXIOUS IN ARIZONA

DEAR ANXIOUS: If the life you want includes marriage and children, by now you should realize your "ideal man"

is not prepared to give you what you need. He's using the "phony" marriage—if it even exists—to avoid making a commitment to you, and talking circles around you (filibustering!) so he can maintain the status quo. I'm pretty sure you already know what you have to do, as painful as it may be in the short term. Do it now so you won't be writing me in another three years with the same problem.

DEAR ABBY: I'm having a strong disagreement with my sister regarding responsibility for finding child care.

My wife and I have to go away for a couple of days, and we need someone to watch one of our children for a Friday and Saturday night. I'm taking my older daughter to a travel tournament, and my wife had a previously planned trip out of town that same weekend. I asked my sister to stay with our other daughter and our dogs in our home because I thought it would be nice for them to spend some time together. She vehemently rebuffed me because "it's the mother's responsibility to find someone."

I have never heard of such a thing. I felt like I was transported back to the 1950s. To me, family is family. Why would it matter if my family came and watched my child as opposed to my wife's family? We are not talking right now because of this issue. I think it was rude and just plain archaic.

BACK IN TIME

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

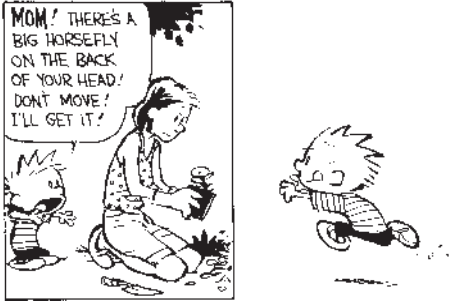


DEAR BACK IN TIME: Family is indeed family. Could your sister have been offended that your wife didn't call and ask for that favor? Or does she dislike your wife for some reason? She was not obligated to agree to baby-sit your child, but for the reason you stated, it would have been nice and an opportunity to bond with the girl. From now on, leave your sister out of the baby-sitting equation, unless she volunteers.

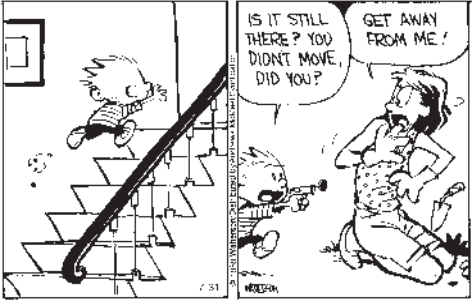
For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

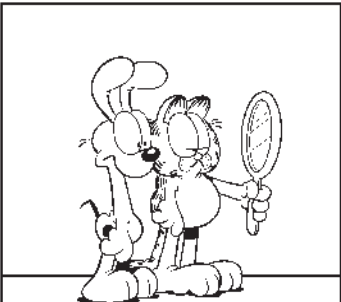


By Bill Waterson



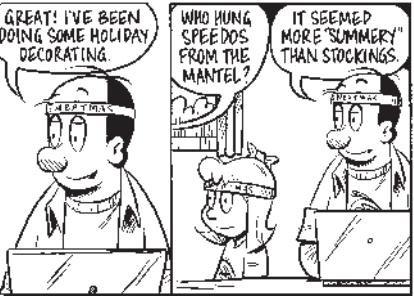
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



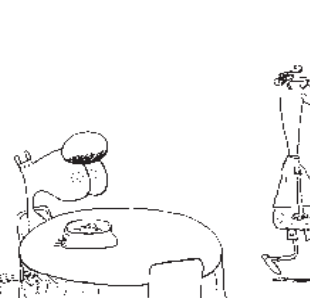
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Beanies

5 Cornfield noise

8 Nile wader

12 Cruising

13 — -de-France

14 Quitter's word

15 "Get rid of junk" event

17 Furniture brand

18 Taters

19 Non-chalant

21 Pencil filler

24 1040 org.

25 Sidewalk eatery

28 — salad

30 Copper head?

33 Bird (Pref.)

34 Pivots

35 Trail the pack

36 Pitch

37 Oompah band member

38 Audition CD

39 Outback bird

41 Half a sextet

43 Pine products

46 Egypt's neighbor

50 Mideast airline

51 Trans-action requiring no credit

54 Jazzy Fitzgerald

55 Half of bi-

56 Exile isle

57 Sharp

58 License to drill?

59 Barking mammal

2 Now, in a memo

3 Andean land

4 Bicycle seat

5 Espionage org.

6 100%

7 Coach Ewbank

8 Less friendly

9 School fundraiser

10 Don Juan's mother

11 Remain

16 Compass dir.

20 Steak-house order

22 Rights advocacy org.

23 Uncertainty

25 Sylvester, for one

26 Holly-wood's Gardner

27 Big-discount event

29 Endure

31 "Kapow!"

32 Swelled head

34 Dazzle

38 Extinguishes

40 La Scala city

42 Somewhat (Suff.)

43 Stench

44 Fashion magazine

45 Gulf War missile

47 Valley

48 Jessica of "Dark Angel"

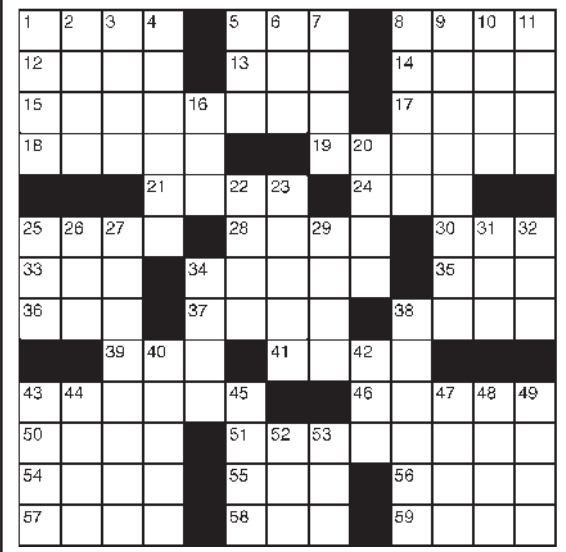
49 "Hud" Oscar winner

52 Moreover

53 Bro's sib

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-31



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rico Rodriguez, 21; B.J. Novak, 40; Zac Brown, 41; J.K. Rowling, 54.

Happy Birthday: Your enthusiasm will help you gain support this year, but before you gather your followers, put the pieces in place that allow you to fulfill the promises you've made along the way. Strength, courage and defiance you have in spades, but when it comes to delivery, it will take hard work, integrity and leadership. Offer a well-thought-out plan. Your numbers are 7, 18, 21, 29, 34, 38, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Listen carefully, and mull over your options before you make a decision. Put your energy into self-improvements, personal growth and rubbing shoulders with people who can help you advance. Romance will enrich your life. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Indecisiveness will be as much of a problem as acting in haste. Look at every angle before you make a choice that will have a lasting effect. If a risk is involved, take a pass. Protect against loss. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Think big, but when it comes to following through, set and stick to a budget. Don't make unnecessary changes or trust someone who is asking for too much. Balance and integrity should be your priorities. Protect against insult or injury. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Let your imagination lead the way. Whatever you decide to take on, give it your personal touch. A positive change to the way you earn your

living or handle your money will help you save for something unique. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Play to win, and don't stop because someone makes other plans. Do your own thing, and make what you do count. If you want something, do your part to make it happen. Be a leader and a team player. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Use your imagination, and you will come up with solutions that will improve your life and the good things you are trying to achieve. Helping others will be satisfying, but don't forget to take care of your needs as well. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Less talk and more action will bring the best results. An opportunity will unfold if you travel or volunteer to help a cause. The people you encounter will offer an interesting point of view that will help you make a decision. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let emotions interfere with doing what's right or best for you. Think matters through, do your research and show a little discipline when faced with temptation. It's OK to be unique as long as you are practical. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll tend to exaggerate today while trying to convince others to see things your way. Take a step back, and focus on getting things done. Partnerships and contracts are favored. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Work quietly behind the scenes until you are satisfied that you have taken care of every detail. Being prepared will stop anyone trying to meddle in your affairs from doing so. A change at home will be in your best interest. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Stick to the truth, and share only what's necessary. A change of plans shouldn't cause upset; it should be looked at as an opportunity to up your game and make improved arrangements. Romance is in the stars. ★★★★★

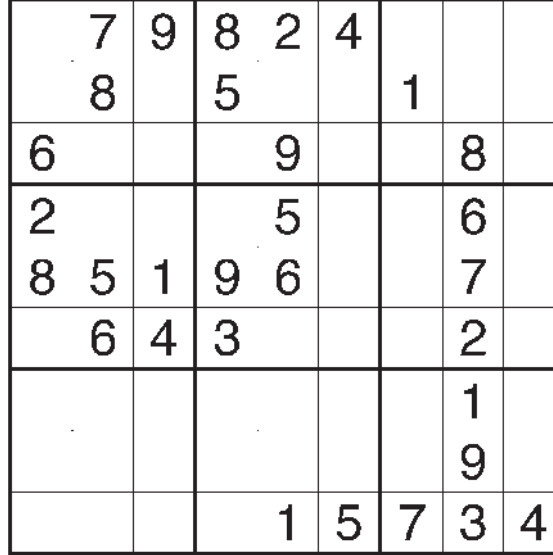
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Work in unison with like-minded people to achieve what you set out to do. If someone tries to entice you into something unrealistic, costly or excessive, have the courage to say no. A vocational or financial change is apparent. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, unpredictable and aggressive. You are fashionable and resilient.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

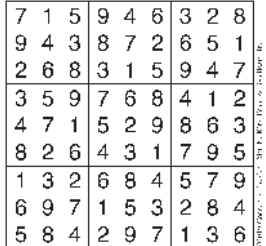
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

HUSH! Solution: 9 letters



2019 American McGraw-Hill Education www.wonderword.com 7/31

Ally, Assignment, Cafe, Calm, Cinema, Command, Court, Crb, Down, Falst, Focus, Home, Library, Listen, Lower, Marriage, Movie, Muffle, Music, Mute, Naptime, Office, Phone, Presentation, Quiet, Reduce, Relax, School, Secret, Serene, Serious, Shush, Silent, Sleep, Sneaky, Soft, Still, Study, Tell, Test, Think, Tone, Tranquil, Venue, Voice, Wait, Whisper, Write

Yesterday's Answer: Coffeehouse

Treasures 13 through 18 and 20 through 34 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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\$12.50 to 15.50 per hour

- Must have 3 years experience in submitting dental insurance claim and familiar in specific dental coding for billing.
- U.S citizen preferred
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is looking to hire
(one) 1 employee to work as
Dental Assistant
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- Must be able to assist dentist, know sterilization, set up instruments and take radiographs
- Employer not able to train individuals lacking the necessary skills for this position
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- 2 RETAIL SALESEPERSON

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WHATZIT Solution: Talking nineteen to the dozen

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. May also check the accuracy of figures, calculations, and postings pertaining to business transactions recorded by other workers. Operate computers programmed with accounting software to record, store, and analyze information. Check figures, postings, and documents for correct entry, mathematical accuracy, and proper codes. Comply with federal, state, and company policies, procedures, and regulations. Operate 10-key calculators, typewriters, and copy machines to perform calculations and produce documents. Receive, record, and bank cash, checks, and vouchers.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• High School Graduate or its equivalent;
• At least 24 months experience in bookkeeping, accounting or auditing clerk; &
• Must be knowledgeable in operating PC, adding machine, electric typewriter, accounting software such as QuickBooks and/or Peachtree.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site -marianasklabor.net.

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DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Ensure that work is in accordance with relevant codes. May install or service street lights, intercom systems, or electrical control systems. Plan layout and installation of electrical wiring, equipment, or fixtures, based on job specifications and local codes. Connect wires to circuit breakers, transformers, or other components. Test electrical systems or continuity of circuits in electrical wiring, equipment, or fixtures, using testing devices, such as ohmmeters, voltmeters, or oscilloscopes, to ensure compatibility and safety of system. Use a variety of tools or equipment, such as power construction equipment, measuring devices, power tools, and testing equipment, such as oscilloscopes, ammeters, or test lamps. Inspect electrical systems, equipment, or components to identify hazards, defects, or the need for adjustment or repair, and to ensure compliance with codes.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE;
• AT LEAST 24 MONTHS EXPERIENCE
• KNOWLEDGE IN USING MEASURING DEVICES, POWER TOOLS AND TESTING EQUIPMENT SUCH AS OHMMETERS, VOLTMETERS, OSCILLOSCOPES, AMMETERS, OR TEST LAMPS.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

(15) H. E. Mechanics \$8.14 to \$9.00 per hour, plus 1.5 OT, Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul mobile mechanical, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, and conveyors, used in construction, logging, and surface mining. Repair and replace damaged or worn parts. Test mechanical products and equipment after repair or assembly to ensure proper performance and compliance with manufacturers' specifications. Operate and inspect machines or heavy equipment to diagnose defects. Read and understand operating manuals, blueprints, and technical drawings. Dismantle and reassemble heavy equipment using hoists and hand tools.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE;
• AT LEAST 24 MONTHS EXPERIENCE
• KNOWLEDGE IN HOIST, HAND TOOLS AND TESTERS.

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**APEX BUILDERS, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

ONE (1) ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN- \$8.84to 9.33 per hour, plus 1.5 OT, Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. May also check the accuracy of figures, calculations, and postings, pertaining to business transactions recorded by other workers. Operate computers programmed with accounting software to record, store, and analyze information. Check figures, postings, and documents for correct entry, mathematical accuracy, and proper codes. Comply with federal, state, and company policies, procedures, and regulations. Operate 10-key calculators, typewriters, and copy machines to perform calculations and produce documents. Receive, record, and bank cash, checks, and vouchers.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• High School Graduate or its equivalent;
• At least 24 months experience
• in bookkeeping, accounting or auditing clerk;
• Must be knowledgeable in operating PC, adding machine, electric typewriter, accounting software such as QuickBooks and/or Peachtree.

All interested applicants can submit resume at nichel@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site -marianasklabor.net.

APEX BUILDERS, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

**GPPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

(01) Truck Driver 8.00 to 8.35 per hour, plus 1.5 OT, Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Drive a tractor-trailer combination or a truck with a capacity of at least 26,000 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW). May be required to unload truck. Requires commercial drivers' license. Check vehicles to ensure that mechanical, safety, and emergency equipment is in good working order. Follow appropriate safety procedures for transporting dangerous goods. Inspect loads to ensure that cargo is secure. Maintain logs of working hours or of vehicle service or repair status, following applicable state and federal regulations. Secure cargo for transport, using ropes, blocks, chain, binders, or covers. Vehicle Weight (GVW) may be required to unload truck. Requires commercial drivers' license. Check vehicles to ensure that mechanical, safety, and emergency equipment is in good working order. Follow appropriate safety procedures for transporting dangerous goods. Inspect loads to ensure that cargo is secure. Maintain logs of working hours or of vehicle service or repair status, following applicable state and federal regulations. Secure cargo for transport, using ropes, blocks, chain, binders, or covers.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• High School Graduate
• At least 12 months experience
• Should possess a CNMI Driver's License

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GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

**GPPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

(15) Maintenance Technicians \$8.11 to \$8.50 per hour, plus 1.5 OT, Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Perform work involving the skills of two or more maintenance or craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Duties may involve pipe fitting, boiler making, insulating, welding, machining, carpentry, repairing electrical or mechanical equipment; installing, aligning, and balancing new equipment; and repairing buildings, floors, or stairs. Inspect, operate, or test machinery or equipment to diagnose machine malfunctions. Dismantle machines, equipment, or devices to access and remove defective parts, using hoists, cranes, hand tools, or power tools. Perform routine maintenance, such as inspecting drives, motors, or belts, checking fluid levels, replacing filters, or doing other preventive maintenance actions. Diagnose mechanical problems and determine how to correct them, checking blueprints, repair manuals, or parts catalogs, as necessary.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE;
• AT LEAST 24 MONTHS EXPERIENCE
• KNOWLEDGE IN USING HAND AND POWER TOOLS SUCH AS CHAINS, POWER DRILLS, POWER CIRCULAR SAWS AND PULLERS.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays, or more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site -marianasklabor.net.

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2. Prepares reports on tour activities.
3. Correspond with tour operators in Korea.
4. Prepare exit & arrival schedules.
5. Formulate, organize & execute an attractive & competitive tour package to be sold Korean tourists who are based in Korea.
6. Confirms reservations, arranges sales of optional tours or services.
7. Assist in selling of optional tours, assist customers on daily basis in explaining all the optional tours and rental items available and perform other duties as assigned or as required.
8. Explain the different optional tours available on the island.
9. Explain and inform tourist customers about the different historic tourist spots on the island to give each customers knowledge about the islands history and its significance to the people of Saipan.

Requirements:

1. Two years related experience in tour/travel industry.
2. Must be able to speak, read and write Korean Language.
3. Computer skill required, excel and word.
4. At least High school graduate.
5. Traffic and Police clearance required (Will be applied equally to US workers and CW-1 workers).
6. Must possess a Tour Guide Certificate from MVA/NMC.
7. Must possess a valid CNMI Driver's License.
8. Must be willing to work flexible schedule.
9. Previous work experience certificate required (Will be applied equally to US workers and CW-1 Workers).

Salary: \$ 9.23 per hour
This is a temporary full time position

Interested applicants Send resume to dreampacificcorp2016@gmail.com or call 1-670-234-1667 (Monday to Saturday 9am-6pm).

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Wanted Floral Arrangements Retail Purchaser/Retailer

- Must be able to show experience selecting, purchasing and arranging shipment of fine ceramics from SE Asia
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Nationals beat Braves, tighten NL East race



WASHINGTON (AP)—

As the entire stadium erupted around him, Anthony Rendon put his head down for another routine trip around the bases.

The notoriously even-keeled Rendon hit a tiebreaking grand slam in the sixth inning, and the Washington Nationals beat the Atlanta Braves 6-3 on Monday night in the opener of a three-game series to close within 4½ games of the NL East leader.

“Hit it far and loud,” manager Dave Martinez said. “It was clutch.”

With the score 2-2, Rendon connected off of Chad Sobotka for his 23rd home run this season and third career slam, raising his career RBIs total to 500. Rendon, who had two hits, is hitting .370 in his last 19 games with nine doubles, three homers and 20 RBIs.

“I wanted to be ready for the fastball, be on time, just see something over the middle of the plate,” the soft-spoken Rendon said.

Patrick Corbin (9-5) allowed two runs and five hits in six innings, striking out eight and walking one. Sean Doolittle gave up a home run to pinch-hitter Charlie Culberson in the ninth.

Dallas Keuchel (3-4) gave up four runs, six hits and four walks in 5 1/3 innings, dropping to 0-3 with a 5.08 in five starts against Washington. Making his eighth start for the Braves since signing in June, he is 0-2 in three outings since winning at San Diego on July 12.

“Very disappointing. That’s about it,” said Keuchel, who expressed frustration with umpire Adam Hamari’s strike zone. “I thought I punched out



Washington Nationals second baseman Brian Dozier throws a ground ball single by Atlanta Braves' Josh Donaldson to first base in the sixth inning of a baseball game, Monday, July 29, 2019, in Washington. AP

about 10 guys. I got rewarded with extra at-bats. That’s where that lies.”

Juan Soto singled home a run in the first and Trea Turner hit an RBI double in the second. The 20-year-old Soto also made a leaping catch at the left-field wall in the sixth to deny Adam Duvall a possible two-run homer.

Atlanta scored in the fourth when Duvall hit a sharp two-out grounder to Rendon. The third baseman made a diving backhand stop, but his throw attempting to prevent an infield single sailed past first for an error and Freddie Freeman, who had been on second, came home.

“I don’t know how you air-mail that ball,” Rendon said. “I had a lot of juice on that. Statcast that.”

Rockies 9, Dodgers 1

In Denver, Jon Gray allowed three hits over eight innings to win for the first time in a month, and Colorado beat Los Angeles for its third win in 11 games this season against the NL champions.

Nolan Arenado had a two-run single in a five-run fifth inning, David Dahl hit a two-run homer in the eighth, and Ian Desmond finished a home run short of the cycle.

Gray (10-7) allowed one run, struck out six and walked three. Wade Davis finished the four-hitter.

Kenta Maeda (7-8) allowed six runs and seven hits in four-plus innings for the Dodgers.

Reds 11, Pirates 6

In Cincinnati, Jose Iglesias’ grand slam completed the

Reds’ 10-run second inning in a win over Pittsburgh.

Before the game, the Pirates traded scheduled starter Jordan Lyles to the Brewers.

The last-place Pirates lost their ninth straight, their longest skid since they dropped 10 in a row in 2011.

The Reds piled up six hits and three walks while sending 13 batters to the plate. Joey Votto singled home a pair of runs, first baseman Josh Bell had a throwing error, and Iglesias’ second career grand slam off Montana DuRapau made it 10-1. Every Reds player scored in the inning.

Sonny Gray (6-6) gave up four runs in 5 1/3 innings, including Starling Marte’s 18th homer and Bryan Reynolds’ ninth. Colin Moran hit his

third career grand slam off Wandy Peralta.

Marlins 11, Diamondbacks 6

In Miami, Caleb Smith endured a bad stretch after a baserunning adventure and recovered to pitch seven innings as Miami beat Arizona.

Smith laid down a bunt in the second inning and wound up at third base thanks to two errors on the play. The jaunt may have taken a toll, because in the next inning he gave up three hits, including a three-run homer by Ketel Marte.

Smith (7-4) allowed only one other run, struck out nine and retired his final 10 batters.

The Marlins, who won three of four games from Arizona, improved to 10-9-1 in their past 20 series. They started the year 1-10-3.

Miami’s Miguel Rojas homered for the third game in a row, increasing his season total to four. Teammate Brian Anderson added his 15th homer. Both homers came off Merrill Kelly (7-11), who allowed seven runs in six innings. He has lost his past five decisions, and his ERA has climbed to 4.52.

Carson Kelly hit his 13th homer for Arizona.

Blue Jays 7, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Cavan Biggio hit the go-ahead homer in the eighth inning, Randal Grichuk and Teoscar Hernandez also went deep, and Toronto rallied past the Royals.

Top prospect Bo Bichette singled in the first at-bat of his big league career, and the Blue Jays got a strong spot start from Thomas Pannone in the opener of a 10-game trip.

Tim Mayza (1-1) earned

the victory with a scoreless inning of relief.

Brad Keller (7-10) let just three balls out of the infield until Hernandez’s tying home run in the fifth inning. He went on to allow three homers in a game for the first time in his career, and four runs total in seven-plus innings.

Tigers 7, Angels 2

In Anaheim, Jordan Zimmermann got his first win in 18 starts dating to last season and Detroit beat Los Angeles.

Zimmermann (1-8) allowed two runs in 5 1/3 innings to get his first victory since Sept. 5, 2018.

Miguel Cabrera homered and drove in three, and Jordy Mercer also connected.

Kole Calhoun homered for the Angels, who dropped to 1-4 during their seven-game homestand. Jaime Barria (4-4) gave up three runs, two earned, in five innings.

Padres 8, Orioles 1

In San Diego, Rookie Fernando Tatis Jr. and Franmil Reyes homered on David Hess’ first two pitches, and Eric Hosmer connected twice and drove in five runs San Diego’s win over Baltimore.

Luis Urias also went deep for the Padres, who hit four homers off Hess and five overall. The long balls carried rookie Chris Paddock (7-5) to his second victory in three starts.

It was the first time that the Padres homered on the first two pitches they saw.

Paddock held the Orioles to one run and three hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Hess (1-10) allowed five runs and six hits in 4 2/3 innings. He struck out seven and walked none.

Trade deadline: Relief market getting complicated

Ken Giles once seemed like sure-thing trade bait for the Toronto Blue Jays, as he’s managed to rejuvenate his career north of the border this season. But then, his elbow got in the way.

Giles, 28, has saved 14 games this season for the Jays. He didn’t get the call Monday, and the Blue Jays are saying elbow inflammation is to blame.

Don’t expect GMs to bring on a guy with elbow issues, as MLB insiders were quick to point out.

Giles might have been a lower-cost option for a team—like the Dodgers, let’s say—that need bullpen help. Now, that means the relief market is without one less option.

L.A. is interested in Pirates closer Felipe Vasquez, but the

Pirates reportedly want a lot for him. That would be top prospect Gavin Lux, who is tearing up the minors.

But, according to ESPN’s Buster Olney, the Dodgers aren’t into that.

This could be a storyline that gets interesting in the next 36 hours, as teams try to round out their bullpens.

Meanwhile, after losing Nick Markakis to a broken wrist, the NL East-leading Braves could be looking to trade for an outfielder.

The Braves could fill Markakis’ spot internally (they have Adam Duvall and Ender Inciarte) but there’s nothing wrong with seeing what’s out there. They’ll also be looking into pitching options before Wednesday’s (July 31) deadline.

Speaking of outfielders,

Mariners slugger Domingo Santana has caught some eyes, according to Jon Heyman, as there aren’t a ton of outfield bats on the market.

Santana, 26, has hit 20 homers already this season for Seattle, who are unloading anybody outside of their core players who have value.

In other developments, the Milwaukee Brewers have reportedly welcomed old friend Jordan Lyles back to their team and rotation. The 28-year-old Lyles has struggled this season, posting a 5.36 ERA over 82 1/3 innings.

Milwaukee has plenty of familiarity with Lyles. The team acquired him last season. Down the stretch, Lyles posted a 3.31 ERA in 11 games with the Brewers. Lyles was used as a reliever

with the Brewers last season. He could start for the Brewers this time around.

In New York, Yankees general manager Brian Cashman has been known to pull off surprises around the MLB trade deadline. This year, the approach seems to be pretty straight forward. It’s all about acquiring a starting pitcher, or two, to help bolster the Yankees rotation.

The Yankees need for starting pitching was clear during their just concluded home run-fueled series against the Minnesota Twins. Starters CC Sabathia, Domingo German and JA Happ were all hit hard. With James Paxton also coming off a rough start and the return of ace Luis Severino still far beyond the horizon, Cashman knows they’ll need reinforcements.

Sharapova, Venus get wildcards for US Open warmup

WASHINGTON—Former world number ones Maria Sharapova and Venus Williams were given wildcard entries into next month's WTA Cincinnati tournament, a key tuneup event for the US Open.

Each will compete in the main draw for the August 12-18 hardcourt event.

Sharapova is one of only six women to have completed a career Grand Slam. The 32-year-old Russian owns 36 WTA titles, including five Grand Slam crowns, and is ranked 81st in the world. Her most recent Grand Slam title came at the 2014 French Open.

She suffered a nagging shoulder injury and missed more than four months before

returning on grass, but retired in the third set of her opening-round match at Wimbledon.

Sharapova won the 2011 Cincinnati title and lost in the 2014 semi-finals in her most recent appearance.

Williams, 39, has won seven Grand Slam titles among her 49 WTA crowns and has finished runner up in Grand Slams another nine times. The 51st-ranked US star won singles gold at the 2000 Sydney Olympics and has won three Olympic doubles titles with sister Serena.

It will be Venus's seventh Cincinnati start in her 25-year WTA career, her best run came in 2012 when she lost in the semi-finals.

Kemba says Celtics perfect fit for him



The chance to join the Boston Celtics in NBA free agency was an opportunity of a lifetime for star point guard Kemba Walker, and he saw the historic franchise as an ideal situation for him.

"I think it was more so about the fit. It's a perfect fit," Walker told Kristian Winfield of The Daily News at a recent Rucker Park event. "(Kyrie Irving) left, so there was an open spot for me. Great young talent, and they wanted me. When you have interest and when you feel wanted, that's what people want."

Walker's fit in Boston is much more than him simply replacing Irving as the team's starting point guard.

The Celtics needed a closer with Irving and veteran forward/center Al Horford both departing in free agency, and Walker is among the most clutch players in the league. In fact, only Houston Rockets star James Harden scored more "clutch" points than Walker last season. The C's are hoping young stars Jayson Tatum and/or Jaylen Brown will grow into dependable late-game players, but Walker already is capable of filling that role.

Walker also is an excellent leader. And if you look at Boston's signings and draft picks since the end of the 2018-19 campaign, it's clear that leadership and character were quite important to the front office. Walker, on and off the court, will help lead Boston's impressive group of talented young players. His addition should help improve the team chemistry issues that appeared to plague the C's throughout last season.

Point guards also have thrived under Celtics head coach Brad Stevens in his

five seasons in charge. He helped develop Isaiah Thomas from a sixth man to a legit MVP candidate who finished third in the league in scoring during the 2016-17 campaign. Irving, despite the issues with teammates last season, had fantastic stats in Stevens' system over two seasons. Walker should be the latest player to benefit from Stevens' ability to maximize the production of his starting point guard.

Walker and the Celtics still need to prove the fit on the court, but there are many reasons to believe it will be a great match once the games begin in October.

Meanwhile, Isaiah Thomas won't be the last undersized point guard to wear No. 4 in Celtic green.

According to one report, second-round point guard and Summer League standout Carsen Edwards will wear Thomas's former number this year for the Celtics.

When Edwards was introduced in Boston, the 6-1 sparkplug instantly drew Thomas comparisons and noted the now-Wizards point guard as a source of motivation.

"People who give me inspiration and hope are the shorter guys who make it," Edwards said.

During the Summer League, Edwards averaged 19.4 points per game, but was snubbed from the All-Summer League teams.

Edwards agreed with Boston on a four-year guaranteed contract, which means he'll likely play an important role off the bench sooner rather than later. Fellow draft picks, first rounders Grant Williams and Romeo Langford, have also signed deals with the Celtics while second-round pick Tremont Waters will play on a two-way deal for the 2019-2020 season.



AP
Russia's Maria Sharapova makes a return to Australia's Ashleigh Barty during their fourth round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019.

"This latest comeback I didn't have any particularly high hopes. I've had high hopes for most of them before."

Murray played a set Sunday and about eight games Monday in the US capital heat but is missing match fitness instead of fighting hip pain.

"The conditions here are tough and that's the thing I'm needing. My conditioning isn't great. My time in the gym has been on strengthening the hip," Murray said.

"These last few months have been brilliant. Just not being in pain, it's amazing what that will do to you."

Murray said if he had to play singles next week, "I could do it, but to get where I would want to be I'd have to get back in the gym and get my cardio better."

Murray's most recent singles match was a five-set first-round loss at the Australian Open in January to Spaniard Roberto Bautista Agut. Murray delayed his flight home due to hip pain.

"It was completely gone. I wasn't even certain after the operation if I'd ever be healthy again," Murray said. "A few months later I'm feeling better and feel like I can get back on the singles court."

In Montreal, Rafael Nadal is the top seed for the upcoming men's Rogers Cup, while Ash Barty is the top seed for the women's event in Toronto.

Nadal is the highest-ranked player in the field at No. 2 and will be only member of the men's Big Three to play in Toronto. Top-ranked Novak Djokovic withdrew from the tournament last week, and Roger Federer pulled out shortly after he lost to Djokovic in five grueling sets in the Wimbledon final.

That leaves No. 4 Dominic Thiem of Austria as the second seed.

Nadal, of Spain, is a four-time Rogers Cup champion, including last year in Toronto.

Barty will be competing for the second time since she reached No. 1, following her fourth-round loss at Wimbledon. The Australian has three titles this year, including her first Grand Slam at the French Open.

Naomi Osaka of Japan will be the No. 2 seed in Toronto, followed by Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic.

Tennis Canada announced the top seeds on Monday for both events. The main draw for each will begin on Aug. 5.

Williams, a five-time Wimbledon singles champion, lost to US 15-year-old qualifier Coco Gauff in the first round at Wimbledon in her most recent start.

"Maria and Venus are two of the greatest champions in tennis history," tournament director Andre Silva said. "We look forward to both joining our world class field."

Murray nears singles return

Three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray says he is "quite close" to being able to play singles matches and a "best-case scenario" could see it happen at Cincinnati in two weeks.

The 32-year-old British star, who feared he could be forced into retirement before undergoing right hip surgery in January, returned to the court in June but has played only doubles while rehabilitating and seeing how his hip responds.

"In terms of moving and feeling and waking up the next day, I'm feeling good," Mur-

ray said. "I'm quite close but there's stuff that would need to get better."

Murray, paired with brother Jamie in men's doubles at the ATP Washington Open, said Monday he feels no hip pain and will practice singles this week while playing doubles and plans to do so against next week in Canada.

"I'll play singles as soon as I feel ready," Murray said. "I'm going to practice singles and play doubles to compete and each week I'll see. I'll keep on that path until I'm ready."

Murray, the former world number one who is now ranked 222nd, downplayed the idea he might compete in the US Open, which starts August 26, but didn't slam the door on the possibility.

"Best case scenario probably would be Cincinnati," Murray said. "If I wasn't in Cincinnati, I would probably wait until after the US Open. I

wouldn't want my first tournament to be playing best-of-five (sets) either."

But Murray, whose Grand Slam singles titles include the 2012 US Open and 2013 and 2016 Wimbledon crowns, warned he has hopes of regaining his peak form.

"I'm playing better than I was last year. I can extend my leg behind me. I can push off for serves. It's brilliant," he said. "The question I have now is why not? Why can't I get back where I was? What's the reason? There isn't one. It just takes time."

Earlier this month at Wimbledon, Murray said it would be up to 18 months before he returned to singles and the US Open was a "pretty unlikely" prospect.

"I'm closer than what I maybe thought I was," Murray said. "After Wimbledon I started doing a few singles drills. At one point brief practices. It felt great."



More dominant Mahomes expected in new season



ST. JOSEPH, Mo.—Patrick Mahomes wanted to go again.

Engaged in a goal-line throwing competition with his fellow quarterbacks, the Kansas City Chiefs star clapped his hands for the ball, aimed and squarely hit the tackling dummy placed at the front corner of the end zone 5 yards away and to Mahomes' left.

Mahomes fit his next throw into a window on a passing net directly in front of him, then barely missed his next target—the crossbar at the back of the end zone. On the fourth, Mahomes rolled to his right, whipped a behind-the-back pass towards that corner of the end zone and nearly hit his target.

With each throw, an audible buzz permeated from the fans seated on the hill behind the end zone. Cheers followed each make and good-natured groan of disappointment followed the narrow misses.

Yes, they were hanging on every throw of a simple passing drill. You see, Showtime Mahomes executed each throw of that round left-handed. The kid's a righty.

A year after he took the NFL by storm, throwing a blistering 50 touchdown passes and earning MVP honors, Mahomes is still making most everything look easy.

In 2018, he directed an offense that led the league with 35.5 points a game and 6,810 total yards. They made a deep charge into the post-season and narrowly missed reaching the Super Bowl after losing to New England in overtime of the AFC Championship game.

Mahomes enjoyed his off-season, and rightfully so. He attended commercial and photoshoots for endorsement deals. He appeared on late-night talk shows. He attended awards ceremonies and baseball games. He rekindled his college days, leading Texas Tech's student cheering section during the men's basketball team's march to the national championship game.

"Definitely the most fun experience was Final Four with Texas Tech," Mahomes said during a post-practice interview Saturday. "Just seeing all those guys get to the national championship and work and achieve their goal of making it to a Final Four. ... Just being a fan of someone and being in an environment where I get to root for them was something that I've missed and glad I got to experience."

But now it's back to work. (The work never completely ended, because throughout his



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes signals a play during their training camp Monday, July 29, 2019, in St. Joseph, Mo.

AP

travels, Mahomes carved out time to improve his body and skills). But, Mahomes is officially back on the clock now.

As Year 2 as a starter kicks off for the quarterback, the questions loom large.

What does he do for an encore? Can he possibly maintain that level of play? Can he actually get even better?

Year 2 certainly will bring challenges. The entire league has a season's worth of game film to dissect. Defensive coordinators have spent the off-season trying to pinpoint his weaknesses. They've tried to find flaws to exploit.

The Chiefs of course aren't lost on this.

"I always look at it like this," offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy told USA TODAY Sports. "You want to make sure that we're working on staying two or three steps ahead, and the rest will take care of itself. That means going out, every day, executing with an attention to detail."

Mahomes is definitely into the details.

He's great at self-critiquing. Even as a first-year starter, Mahomes would come into meetings and rattle off a laundry list of errors he had committed both in wins and losses.

"Before you even say anything, he'll say, 'Aw man, this is what I should've done. I should've put the ball there, or I should've made a better drop,'" Bieniemy revealed. "So, he does a great job of self-correcting which is huge."

A stat line that boasts 50 touchdown passes, only 12 interceptions, a completion

percentage of 66% and 113.8 passer rating may not reflect it, but Mahomes does he has holes in his game.

Despite all those long-range missile strikes, the Houdini escapes, the no-look passes, Mahomes swears he can get better. He knows he must become more efficient and more fundamentally sound.

We saw a jam-packed highlight reel. But we often missed the underneath routes and check-down throws that Mahomes ignored. He had only 12 interceptions, but he definitely forced his fair share of throws.

"I think the biggest thing I'm trying to work on is just knowing when to take that big shot, when to take that chance, and when to take that easy play," Mahomes said. "That's something I'll be working on my whole career. I have that aggressive nature, but at the same time, if the short release is there for the first down, just take that and move the chains."

Said Bieniemy, "We never want to take away his aggressiveness. We want him attacking the ball downfield. But at times, if it's taken away, take the gimme. We know you have the big-arm talent, but can you be disciplined enough to go to that checkdown route? Sometimes you need to go to whoever is in the flat and they can make the catch and a nice run from that point on."

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better. He knows he must become more efficient and more fundamentally sound.

The other discipline Mahomes seeks involves his footwork and movement in the pocket. Those plays on the fly, when he's running one way and zipping the ball across his body the opposite direction, or spinning away from a defender and dropping a dime like a MJ fade-away were things of beauty. And Bieniemy stresses, "we definitely don't want to take away his creativity." It's just a matter of consistency on those standard plays. When a three- or five-step drop is called, Mahomes must be

more precise. Or, when he does have time, the quarterback must do better at taking time to set his feet to deliver a more accurate pass.

"I just want him maintaining consistency in the pocket with his drops and also too with his body language," the coordinator further explained. "Understand this: when you're in a team sport, we all direct impact each other. If I'm taking the wrong footwork and dropping too deep, that offensive tackle is setting at a certain depth. So, we have to make sure we're not drifting outside of that depth and putting ourselves in harm's way."

Goodell, title game officials to face questions on 'no-call'

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A Louisiana judge ordered that NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and three officials from January's NFC title game be questioned under oath in September about the infamous "no-call" that helped the Los Angeles Rams beat the New Orleans Saints in January's NFC title game, a lawyer said Monday.

Attorney Antonio LeMon, who filed a lawsuit over the game that advanced the Rams to the Super Bowl, said he and league attorneys will pick a mutually agreeable date for depositions in New Orleans — barring any league appeals that might delay or cancel the questioning.

A league spokesman declined comment.

LeMon's lawsuit seeks

\$75,000 in damages—to be donated to charity—over the failure to flag a pass interference or roughness penalty against Rams cornerback Nickell Robey-Coleman for his helmet-to-helmet hit on receiver Tommy Lee Lewis well before a pass arrived. The no-call came at a crucial point in the game against the New Orleans Saints. The Rams won and advanced to the Super Bowl.

State Civil District Court Judge Nicole Sheppard of New Orleans ruled earlier this month that LeMon's lawsuit could proceed. She also ruled then that LeMon can request documents and ask questions of NFL officials. She said Monday that depositions should take place in September. She also set Aug.

22 for the next hearing in the lawsuit, according to LeMon.

Other suits dealing with the blown call have wound up in federal court, where they have failed. They included one long-shot effort to have the game or a crucial part of it played over before the Rams met the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl, which the Patriots won.

LeMon, whose lawsuit alleges fraud by NFL officials, has crafted his lawsuit to avoid having it taken over by a federal court, in part by keeping the damages sought low. He said Monday that he intends for any money won to go to former Saints star Steve Gleason's charity to aid people with neuromuscular diseases. Gleason was diagnosed with ALS in 2011.

Contrasting wins for Bears, Mariners

By **ROSELYN B. MONROY**
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REPORTER

Action in the 2019 Saipan Baseball League resumed last Saturday with the Chalan Kanoa Bears and Mariners recording contrasting victories at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

In the first game, the Mariners nosed out the Aces, 4-3, while the Bears eased past the Blue Jays in the second match, 13-1. With the easy win, the defending champions Bears remain undefeated (4-0) in the league that suspended its games in Week 4 (July 20) due to the soggy field, while the Mariners improved to a 2-1 mark.

The Mariners scored two runs at the bottom of the sixth inning to steal the victory from the Aces, who clung to a 3-2 lead after four complete innings.

Kimo Angailen had a two-run double for the Aces in the third inning, while Keola Camacho reached off a wild pitch in the fourth to put their team in front. The Mariners' two early runs, on the other hand, came from Nate Camacho's single that brought Patrick Tenorio home in the second inning and an Aces' error, which led Jonah Flores to home in the fourth.

At the top of the fifth, the Aces had a chance to gain some cushion when they load-

ed the bases with two outs. However, a big defensive stop from the Mariners foiled the Aces' bid, as Flores threw from second base to first baseman Tyler Flores, who beat Jose Deleon Guerrero for the last out, leaving three Aces runners stranded.

Despite the missed opportunities, the Aces hung on to the shaky lead after five complete innings, as they brought down the Mariners' first three batters at the bottom of the fifth.

The Mariners, however, held their own on defense at the top of the sixth to set up the late comeback. Closer Nate Camacho struck out Aces leadoff batter Giovanni Mira and Brian Camacho, and John Reyes went down on a 5-3 putout play for the three quick outs.

At the bottom of the sixth, Nate Camacho batted first, walked, and reached second on a passed ball. Gay Cruz also walked, while Jonah Flores was struck out. Nate Camacho went on to score the game-tying run off a fielder's choice, while Cruz handed the Mariners the lead, also from a fielder's choice before the Aces ended the inning with a double play to stay in the game.

However, the Mariners kept the lead and completed the comeback when Aces leadoff batter Darion Jones was beat-

en to first and Nate Camacho fanned Angailen and Tyrone Omar, leaving Juan Iguel stuck at first base.

In the second game, the Bears got off to a good start, scoring

five runs in the first inning en route to their fourth straight win.

Ricardo Dela Cruz hit 2-for-3 at bat for the Bears and scored three runs and two RBIs. Henry and Frank Liza-

ma and J.J. Lifofoi also had two RBIs each for the defending champions, who tallied two runs in the second inning for a 7-1 lead and scored in the last three for the easy win.

The Blue Jays' lone run in the one-sided game was courtesy of Tindin Deleon Guerrero, who reached off the Bears' miscue at center field at the bottom of the second inning. The Blue Jays

US Soccer says women's team has made more than the men

NEW YORK—Facing mounting public pressure in a fight over equitable pay, U.S. Soccer said the World Cup champion women's national team has been paid more than the men's team.

According to a letter released Monday by U.S. Soccer President Carlos Cordeiro, the federation paid out \$34.1 million in salary and game bonuses to the women between 2010 and 2018 as opposed to \$26.4 million paid to the men. The total does not include the value of benefits received only by the women, like health care.

The federation released the figures as it moves toward mediating a federal lawsuit in which players for the women's team accused U.S. Soccer of "institutionalized gender discrimination" that includes inequitable compensation when compared to players on the men's team.

Comparing compensation between the two teams is difficult because the pay structure is based on different collective bargaining agreements. For example, players for the women's team have a base salary while the men are paid primarily based on matches and performance.

"In the weeks ahead, we'll focus on preparing for mediation and resolving this matter in the best interests of the WNT and U.S. Soccer. I want you to know that U.S. Soccer is committed to doing right by our players, and I've been encouraged by the public comments from players expressing their desire for a cooperative approach. I remain optimistic that we can find common ground," Cordeiro wrote. "Together, I believe we can get this done."

Molly Levinson, a spokeswoman for the players in



A fan holds up a sign for equal pay for the U.S. women soccer players during the first half of an international friendly soccer match between the United States and Colombia on Wednesday, April 6, 2016, in East Hartford, Conn.

matters involving the lawsuit, called the letter "a sad attempt by USSF to quell the overwhelming tide of support the USWNT has received from everyone from fans to sponsors to the United States Congress."

"The USSF has repeatedly admitted that it does not pay the women equally and that it does not believe the women even deserve to be paid equally," Levinson said. "This is why they use words like 'fair and equitable,' not equal in describing pay."

Cordeiro said the federation recently conducted an extensive analysis of its finances over the past 10 years, seeking to clear up what he called confusion based on the pay structures for both teams.

U.S. Soccer said it pays the women's national team players a base salary of \$100,000 per year, and an additional \$67,500 to \$72,500 per play-

er as a salary for playing in the National Women's Soccer League. The women also have health care benefits and a retirement plan.

Players on the men's national team are paid by training camp call-ups, game appearances and through performance bonuses. The federation acknowledged the men have the ability to earn higher bonuses than the women. The men's team did not make the field for the 2018 World Cup in Russia, while the women have won back-to-back World Cup titles.

The collective bargaining agreements are not made public, and U.S. Soccer did not provide details about the men's bonus structure.

USSF also says the men's team generates more revenue. The women's team generated \$101.3 million over the course of 238 games be-

tween 2009 and 2019 while the men generated \$185.7 million over 191 games, according to the federation.

The analysis did not include prize money for tournaments like the World Cup, because those funds are determined by FIFA, soccer's international governing body, and not U.S. Soccer.

The letter comes amid increasing pressure on U.S. Soccer in the wake of the women's victory at the World Cup earlier this month. After the United States defeated the Netherlands in Lyon, France, the crowd at the stadium chanted "Equal Pay! Equal Pay!"

During the World Cup, more than 50 members of Congress also sent a letter to U.S. Soccer "to express our disappointment of the inequities in pay, publicity, and investment that the U.S. Women's National Team (USWNT) has continued to face."

CNMI

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Mainguy and Miki eased past Tahiti's Manovai Elie and Mohearii Pilin in the first set, 6-1, but failed to close out the semis game early when their opponents bounced back in the second, 6-4. In the decider, Vanuatu and Miki eked out a 10-8 triumph to notch the second finals ticket in the doubles division.

In the singles, Mainguy will be the last man standing on Woo's way to taking the division title. The Vanuatu bet bagged the finals berth at the upper half of the draw following a 6-3, 6-1 win over Molinier.

In other results, Pacific Games participant Eleanor Schuster of Samoa marched into the finals of the girls U16 singles and will be battling Fiji's Saoirse Breen. Schuster and Breen arranged their title duel after eliminating Solomon Islands' Zorika Morgan, 6-3, 6-3, and Prudence Bird, 6-0, 6-1, respectively.

In the girls U14 singles, Tahiti's Vaiani Dusserre-Valleaux downed the Cook Islands' Moana Une in their Final Four duel, 6-0, 6-2, to advance to the finals against Samoa's Roselyn Tupuola—a 6-4, 7-5 winner over Guam's Alicia Addison in the other semis pairing.

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tina Atalig, Julianne Hall, Rizza Relucio, Jannah Casarino, Summer Manahane, Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez, Marinel Falalimpa, Nathanette Blas, Stephanie Flores, Allyssya Angeles, Julie Ann Capayas, Sophia Quintos, Aubrey and Audrey Castro, Mary Joy Aniana and Paulynn Joyce, head coach Luem Khen Koo, manager Mae Ito, assistant manager Emma Lee, and physiotherapist Pam Carhill.

The Commonwealth players are in Group B of the festival and will be battling the representatives of Hong Kong, Guam, and Mongolia. Once they completed their pool assignments, the CNMI players will then challenge two squads from Group A, which has Asia's top teams Japan, South Korea, China, and Chinese-Taipei.

Of the 17 players suiting up for the Commonwealth in next month's event, half of them are first-timers in regional/international games. Some have

played for the CNMI Women's U19 National Team that won the Marianas Cup against Guam just a couple of weeks ago. Combining the newcomers and veterans for the EAFF event will ensure that both groups will gain valuable experience in South Korea and have the opportunity to improve their games.

"Coach Koo believes this is going to be a positive experience for all the girls. This will give players that are on the WNT (women's national team) a chance to step up and

lead the team. For the new players, this will give them the opportunity to understand that hard work must be done at every training session and match," Ito said.

"Although it is a festival (no event winner will be named), this is an opportunity for the girls to see first hand how powerhouse squads like Japan, China, and South Korea play football," the team manager added.

The festival in South Korea is just the third of a series of international events that the

CNMI will be participating in this year. The first two were the Jockey Club Girls International Youth Invitational Football Tournament in Hong Kong in March and the Marianas Cup in Guam last July 20. In September, the Commonwealth will also play in the Asian Football Confederation U16 Championship 2020 Qualifiers in Jakarta, Indonesia, while in November, CNMI players will see action in the AFC U19 Championship 2020 Qualifiers in Cambodia.

Meanwhile, a send-off ceremony for the South Korea-bound team will be held today at 5pm at the Kanoa Resort.

Club officials and players and parents of team members are encouraged to attend the event to support the squad.

"Let us all show up to cheer our U15 girls national team for this challenging tournament, which will definitely provide them valuable experience for the coming AFC girls/women tournaments next year," NMI-FA generals secretary Ross Zapanta said.



Nationals beat
Braves, tighten
NL East race

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More dominant
Mahomes expected
in new season

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI closes in on 2 titles



OCEANIA TENNIS FEDERATION
The CNMI's Jimin Woo is seen here competing in the Nations Cup against Samoa last year in Fiji. Woo made it to both the boys U16 singles and doubles (with Sean Lee) finals in the 2019 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Lautoka.

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Two division titles are within the CNMI's reach, as Jimin Woo and Sean Lee advanced to the finals of the boys U16 age group competitions in the 2019 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji yesterday.

Woo marched into the championship game in the boys U16 singles after sweeping Tahiti's Brandon Fong, 6-2, 6-3, in the lower bracket semis match in the morning. Then in the afternoon, Woo returned to the International Tennis Federations Regional Training Centre courts to team up with Lee in outclassing Fong and Vaitea Molinier in the battle for the doubles finals ticket.

A 6-4 triumph in the first set boosted Woo and Lee's chances to make it to the title match in the doubles event. The Tahiti pair, however, was not ready to throw in the towel yet, as Fong and Molinier prevailed



in the second set, 6-3. With the semis in a deadlock, the CNMI and Tahiti bets played in the super-tiebreaker third set with Woo and Lee showing poise in the end, 10-5. Lee managed to play in the semifinals despite coming from a flu that forced him to retire in his semis match against Woo last Monday.

Lee and Woo will go for the doubles championship today when they face Vanuatu's Clement Mainguy and the Solomon Islands' Junior Miki in the finals. The Vanuatu duo also needed an extended game to make it to the title match.

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17 players off to EAFF event

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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Exposure to off-island games continues for CNMI players, as Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will send a squad to South Korea to participate in the 2019 East Asian Football Federation

U15 Girls Festival next month.

The CNMI U15 Girls National Team will leave Saipan this Friday for the EAFF-organized event that will run from Aug. 5 to 10 in Mokpo, a port city in the South Jeolla Province. The squad is made up players Pia Ngewakl, Chris-

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ANGELES



ANIANA



ATALIG



AUBREY CASTRO



AUDREY CASTRO



BLAS



CAPAYAS



CASARINO



CHAVEZ



FALALIMPA



FLORES



HALL



QUINTOS



RELUCIO



JOYCE



MANAHANE



NGEWAKL